

IDW

40

COVER A

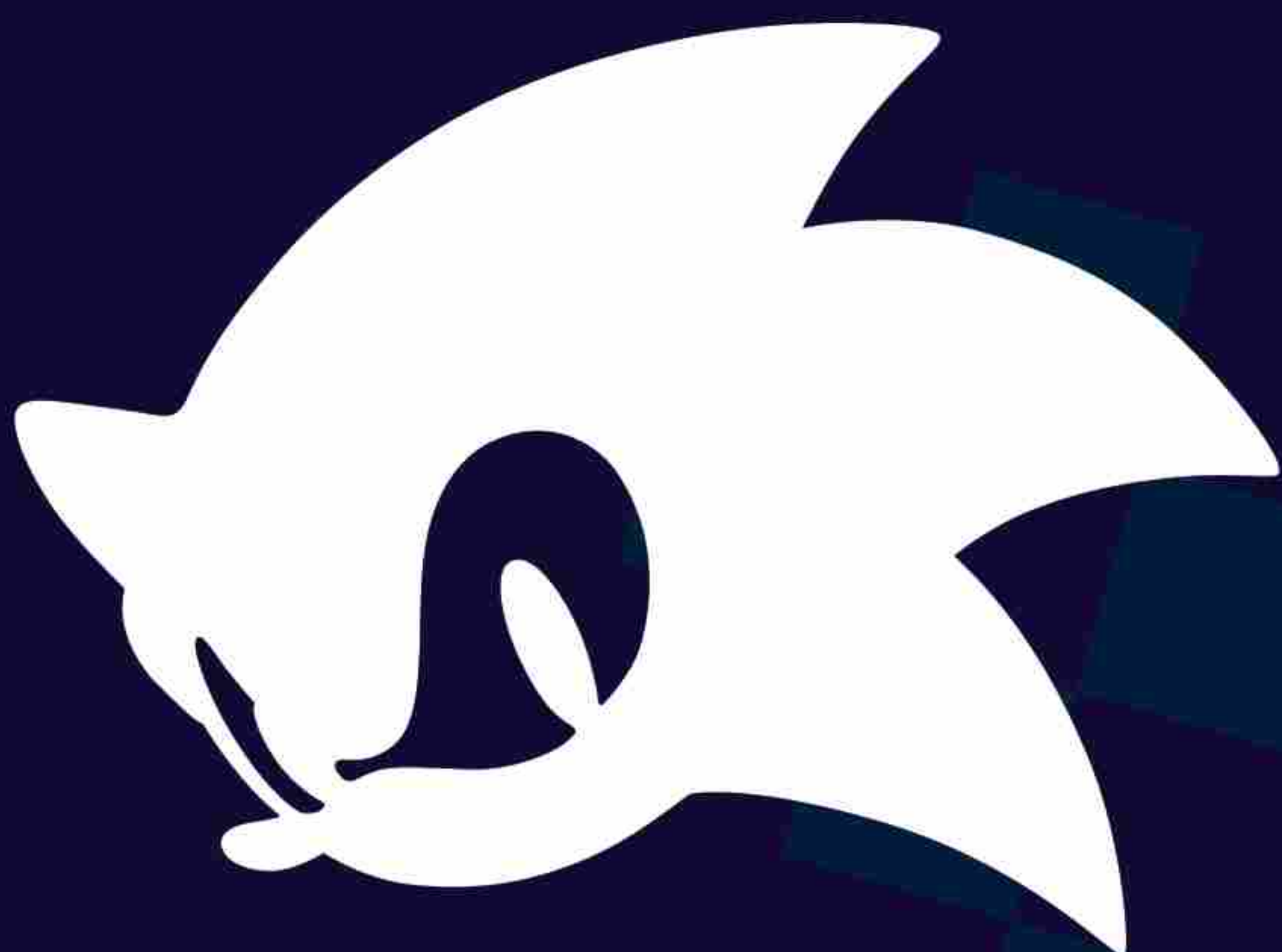
SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG



STANLEY • THOMAS • KEANE • WYCOUGH • ITO • BRECKEL

ITO
SEGA®



SONIC™
THE HEDGEHOG

STORY
EVAN STANLEY

ART
EVAN STANLEY
ADAM BRYCE THOMAS

INKS
MARIA KEANE
JOHN WYCOUGH

COLORS
HEATHER BRECKEL
LEONARDO ITO

LETTERS
SHAWN LEE

ASSISTANT EDITOR
RILEY FARMER

EDITOR
DAVID MARIOTTE

Special thanks to Mai Kiyotaki, Michael Cisneros, Sandra Jo, Sonic Team, and everyone at Sega for their invaluable assistance.



IDW®
www.IDWPUBLISHING.com

Nachie Marham, Publisher • Blake Kobashigawa, VP of Sales • Tara McCrillis, VP Publishing Operations • John Barber, Editor-in-Chief • Mark Doyle, Editorial Director, Originals • Joe Hughes, Director, Talent Relations • Anna Morrow, Sr. Marketing Director • Keith Davidsen, Senior Manager, PR • Topher Alford, Sr. Digital Marketing Manager • Shauna Monteforte, Sr. Director of Manufacturing Operations • Jamie Miller, Sr. Operations Manager • Nathan Widick, Sr. Art Director, Head of Design • Neil Uyetake, Sr. Art Director, Design & Production • Shawn Lee, Art Director, Design & Production • Jack Rivera, Art Director, Marketing
Ted Adams and Robbie Robbins, IDW Founders

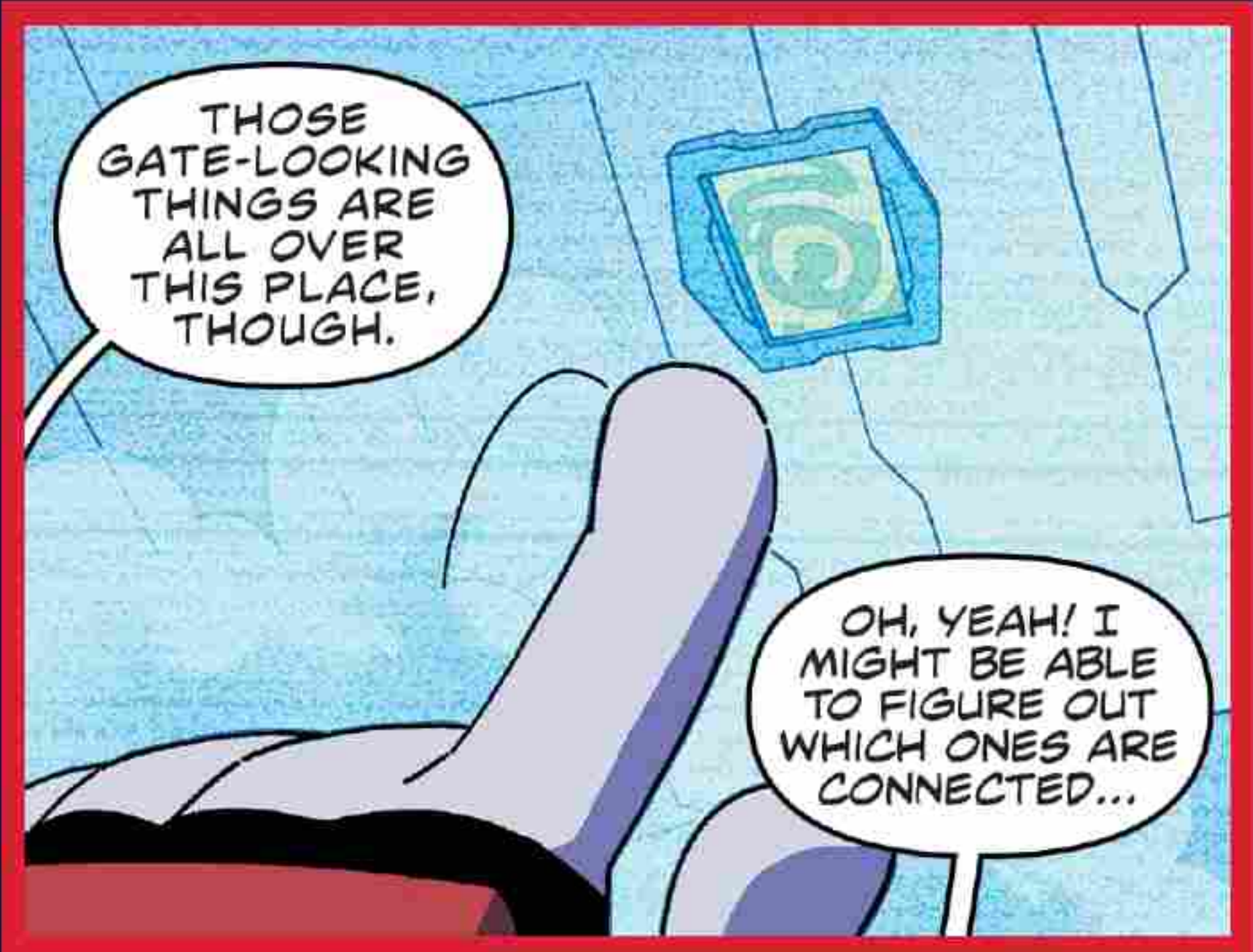


Facebook: facebook.com/idwpublishing • Twitter: [@idwpublishing](https://twitter.com/idwpublishing)
YouTube: youtube.com/idwpublishing • Instagram: [@idwpublishing](https://instagram.com/idwpublishing)



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #40. APRIL 2021. © SEGA. All rights reserved. SEGA is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. SEGA and SONIC THE HEDGEHOG are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION. © 2021 Idea and Design Works, LLC. All Rights Reserved. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 2765 Truxtun Road, San Diego, CA 92106. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

STORY SO FAR





SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

The Blue Blur.
Fastest Thing Alive.



AMY ROSE

Hammer-swinging Heroine.
Restoration ally.



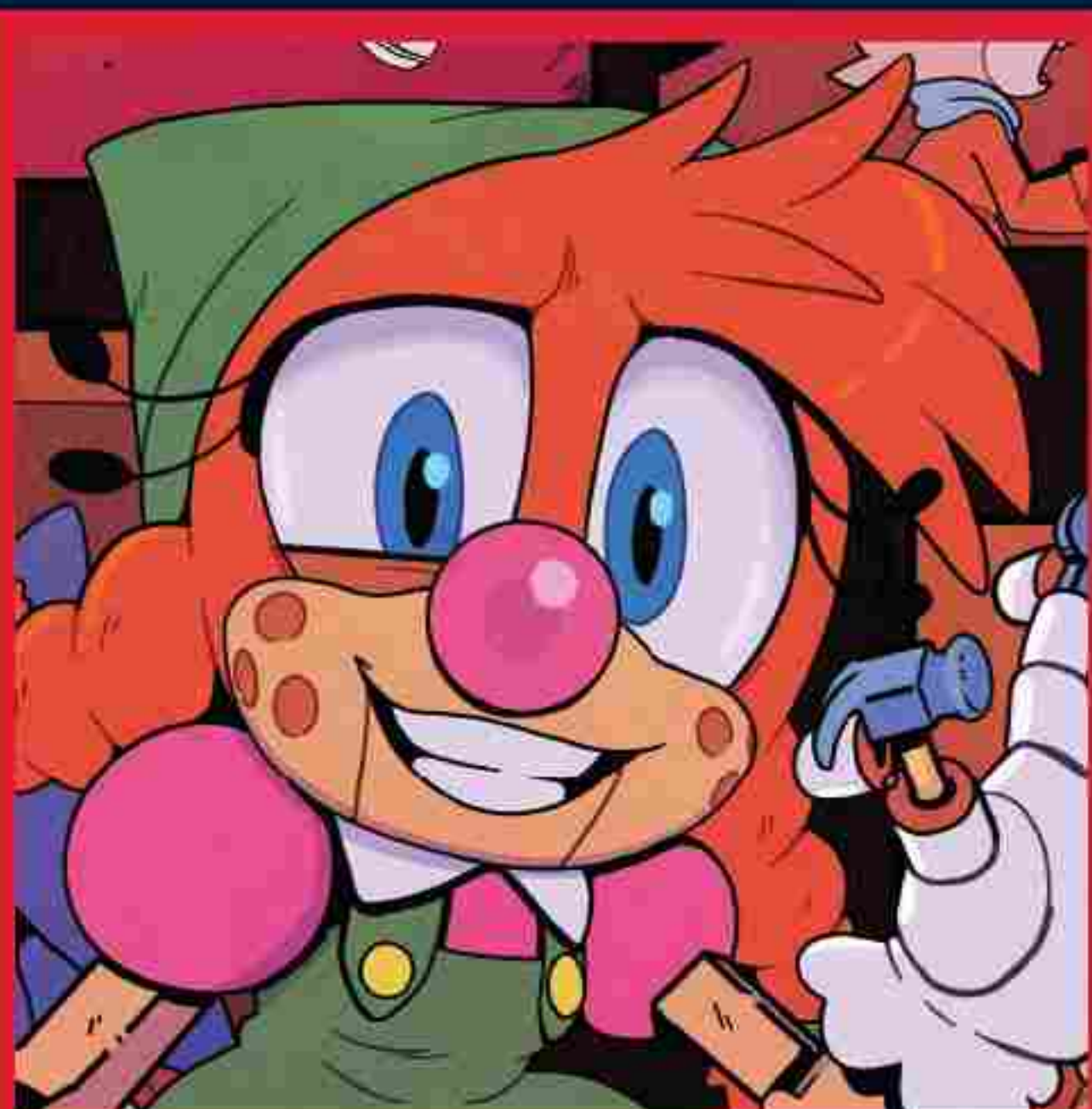
MILES "TAILS" PROWER

Tech-savvy Sidekick.
High-flying genius.



TANGLE THE LEMUR

Excitable Hero.
Elastic-tailed brawler.



BELLE THE TINKERER

Enthusiastic new-comer.
Clumsy Marionette.

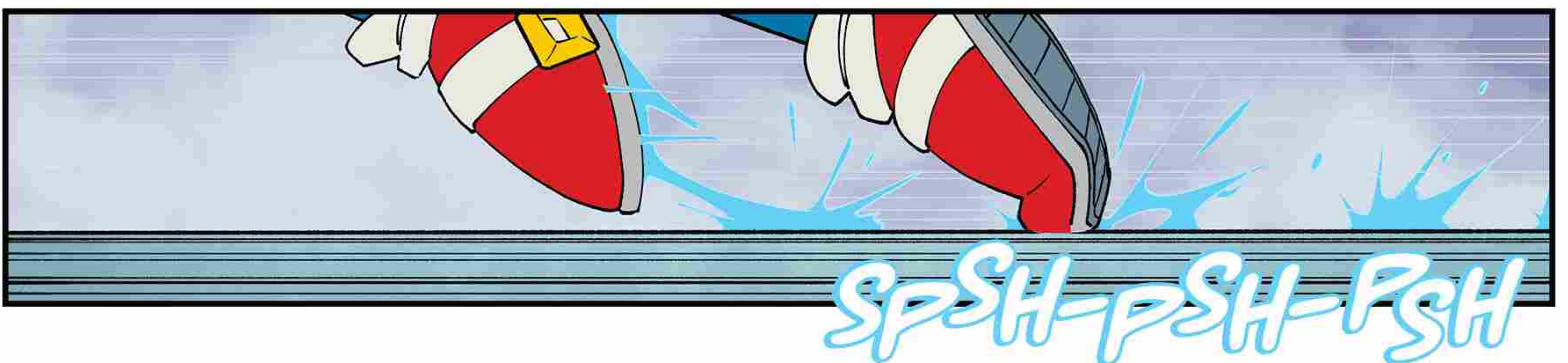
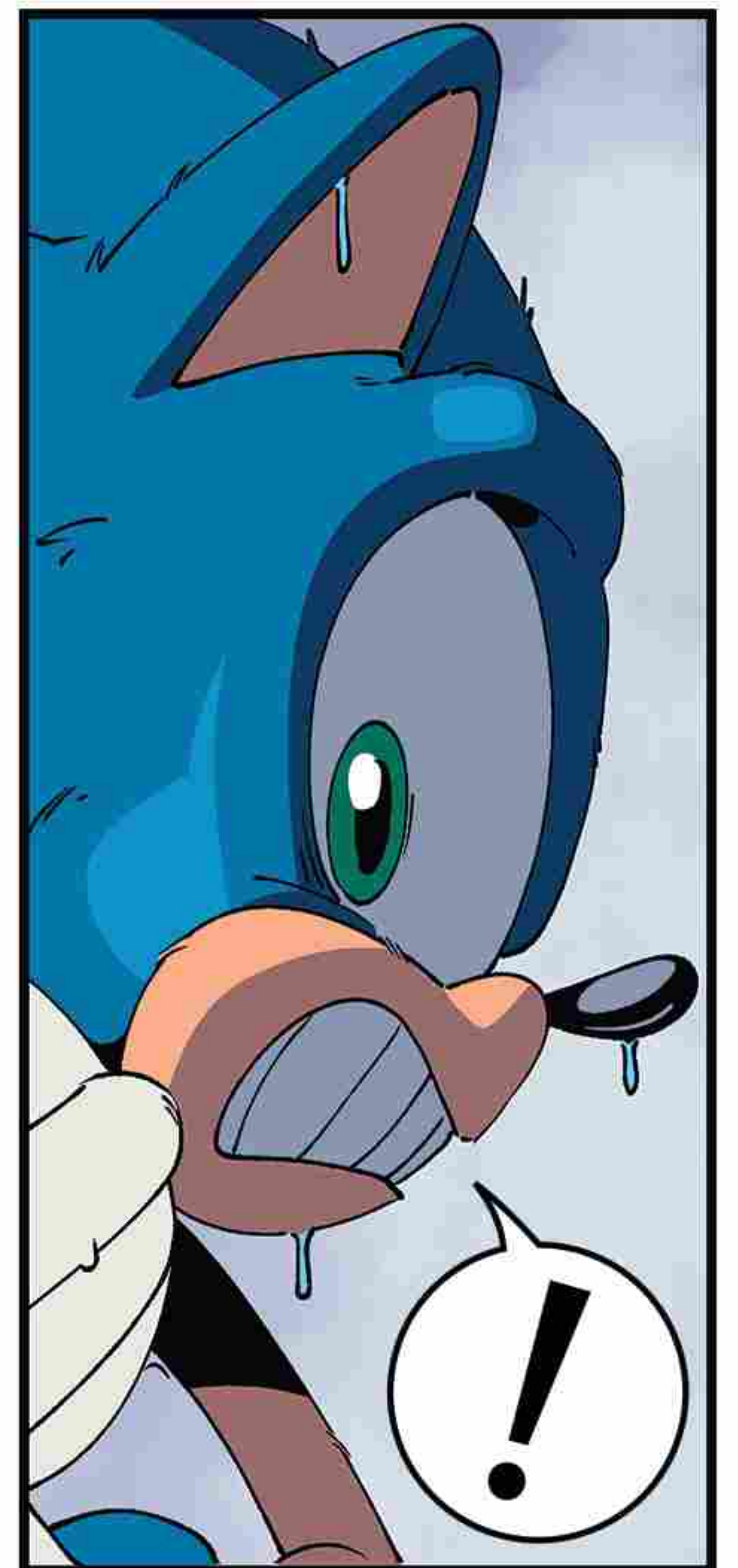
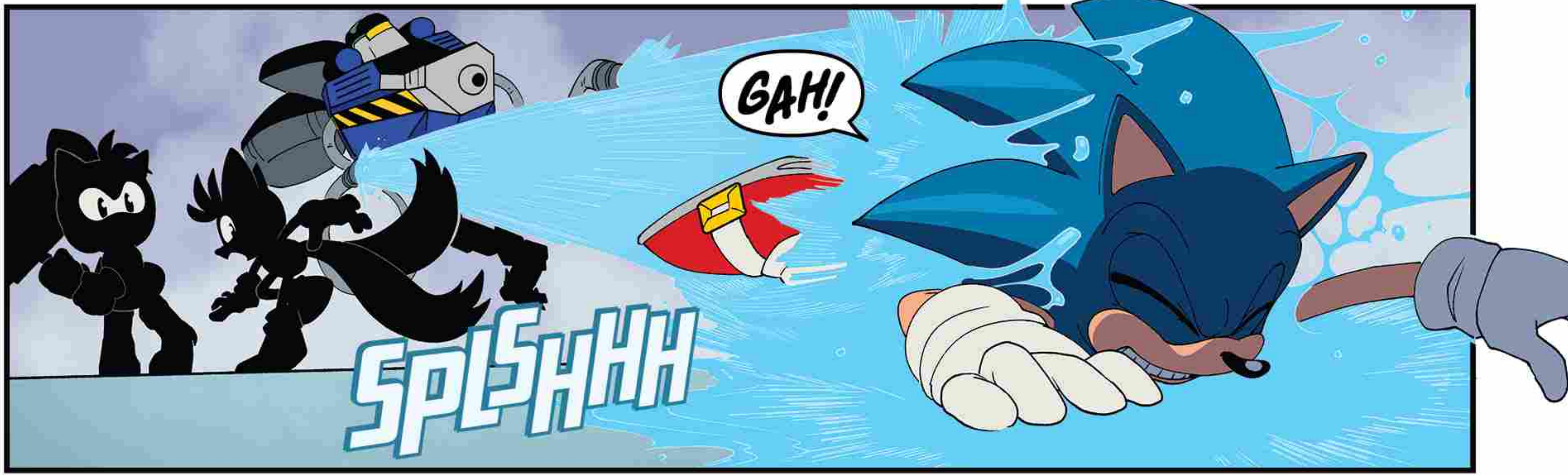


DR. EGGMAN

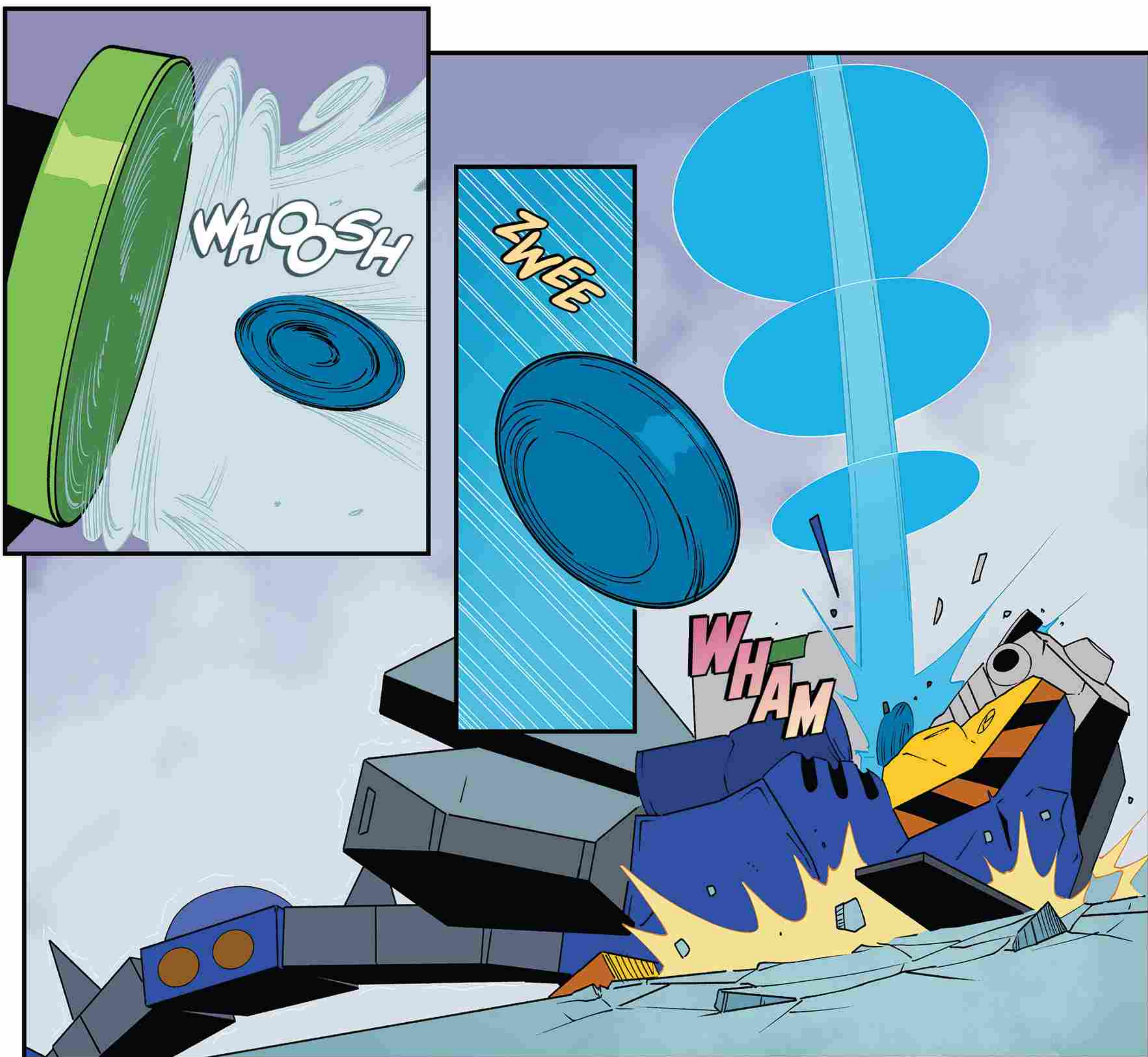
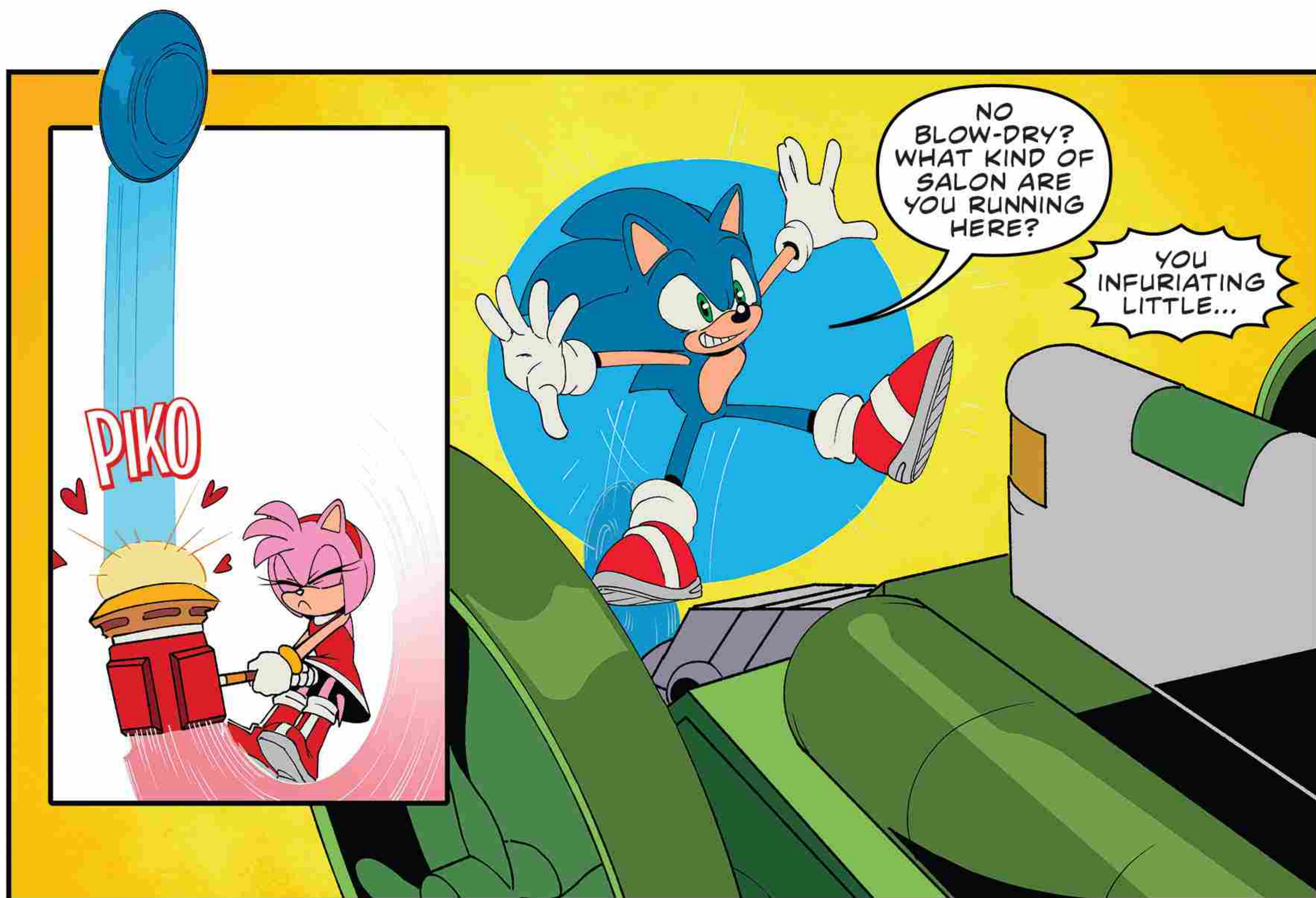
Mad Genius.
Egg enthusiast.

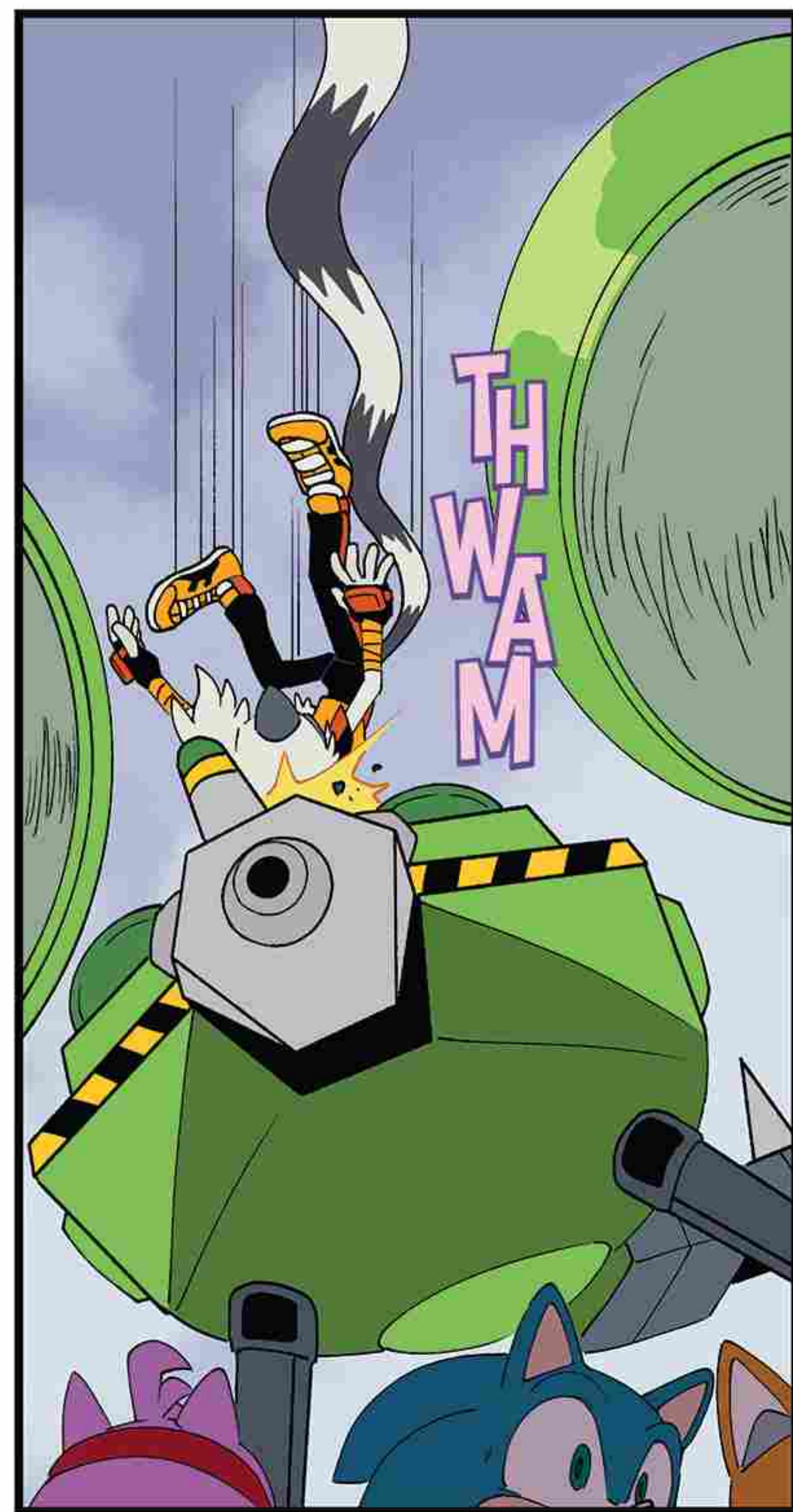
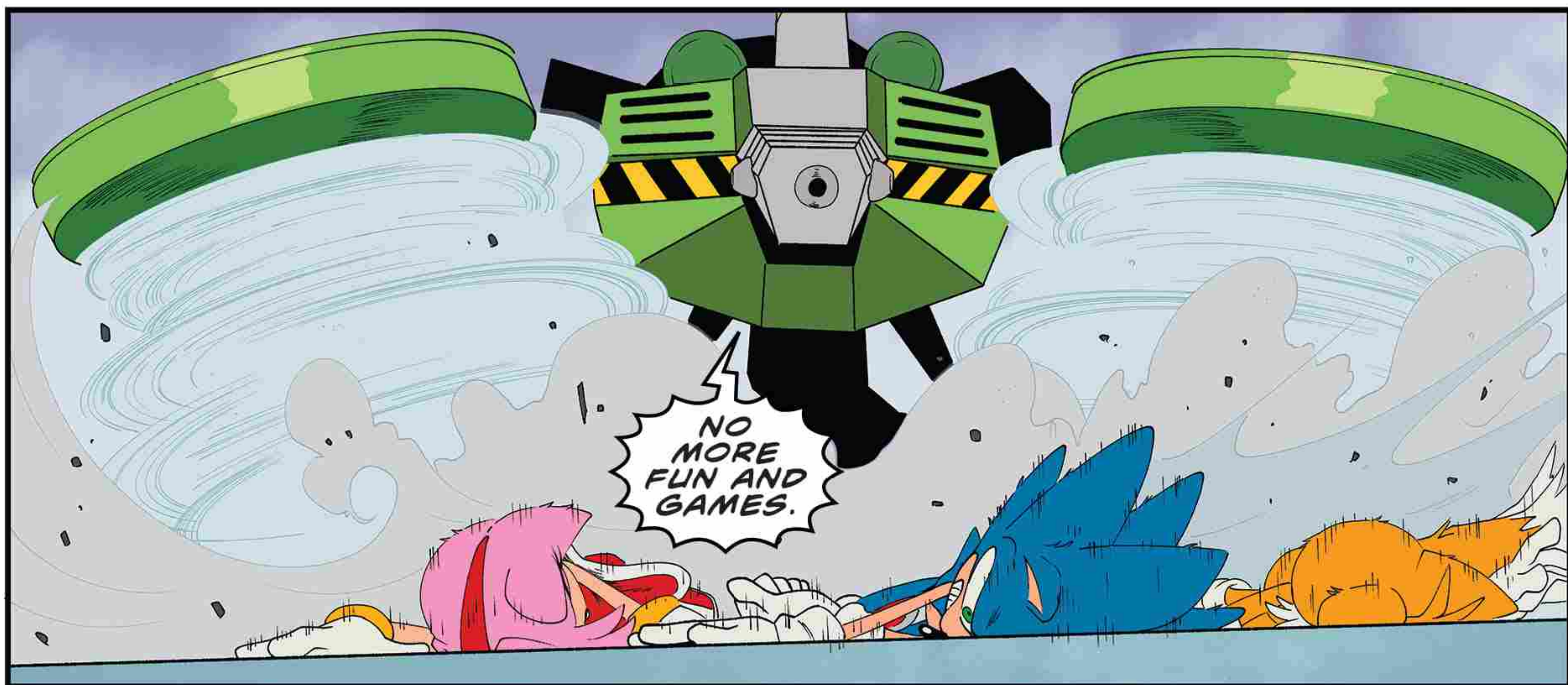
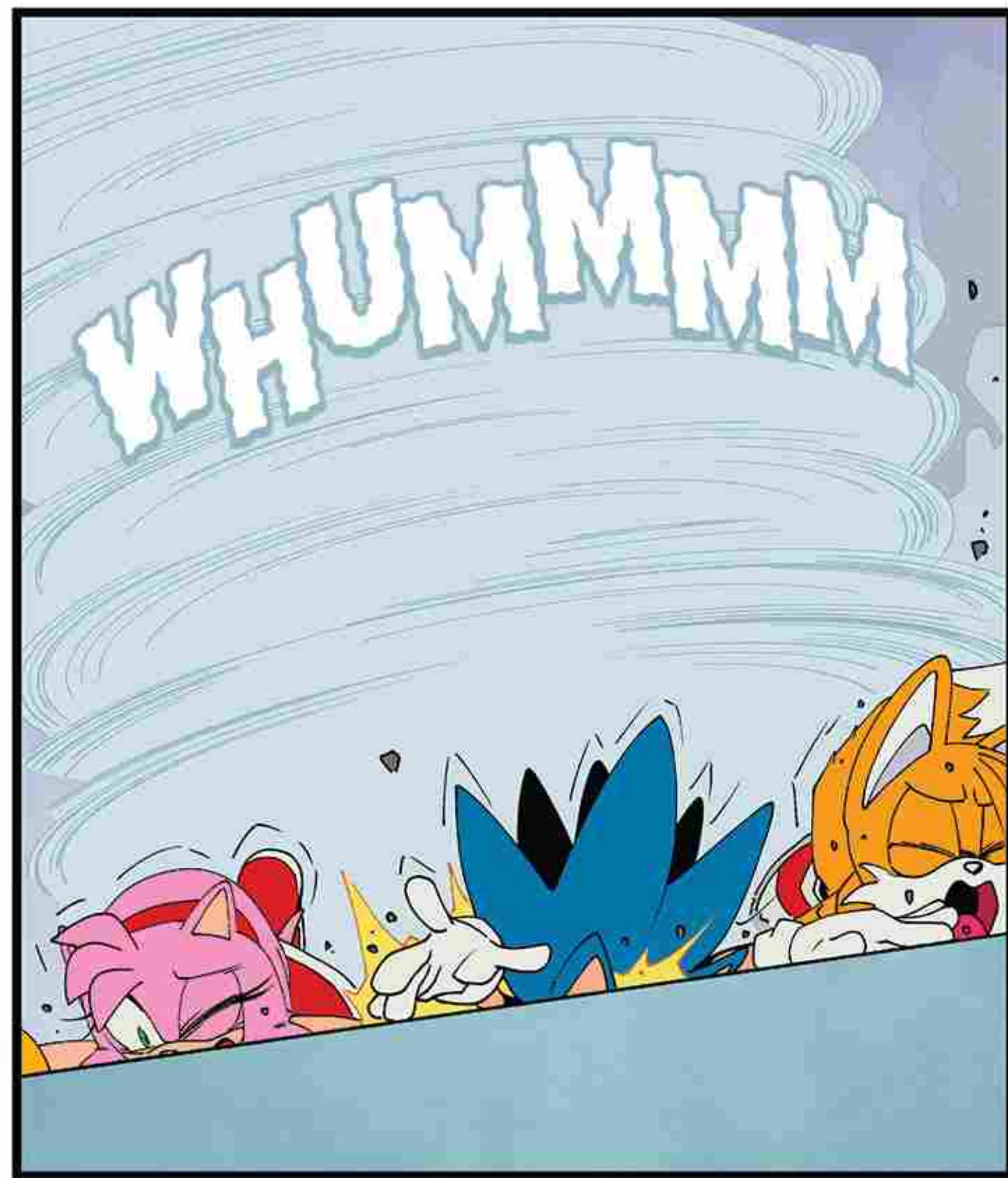


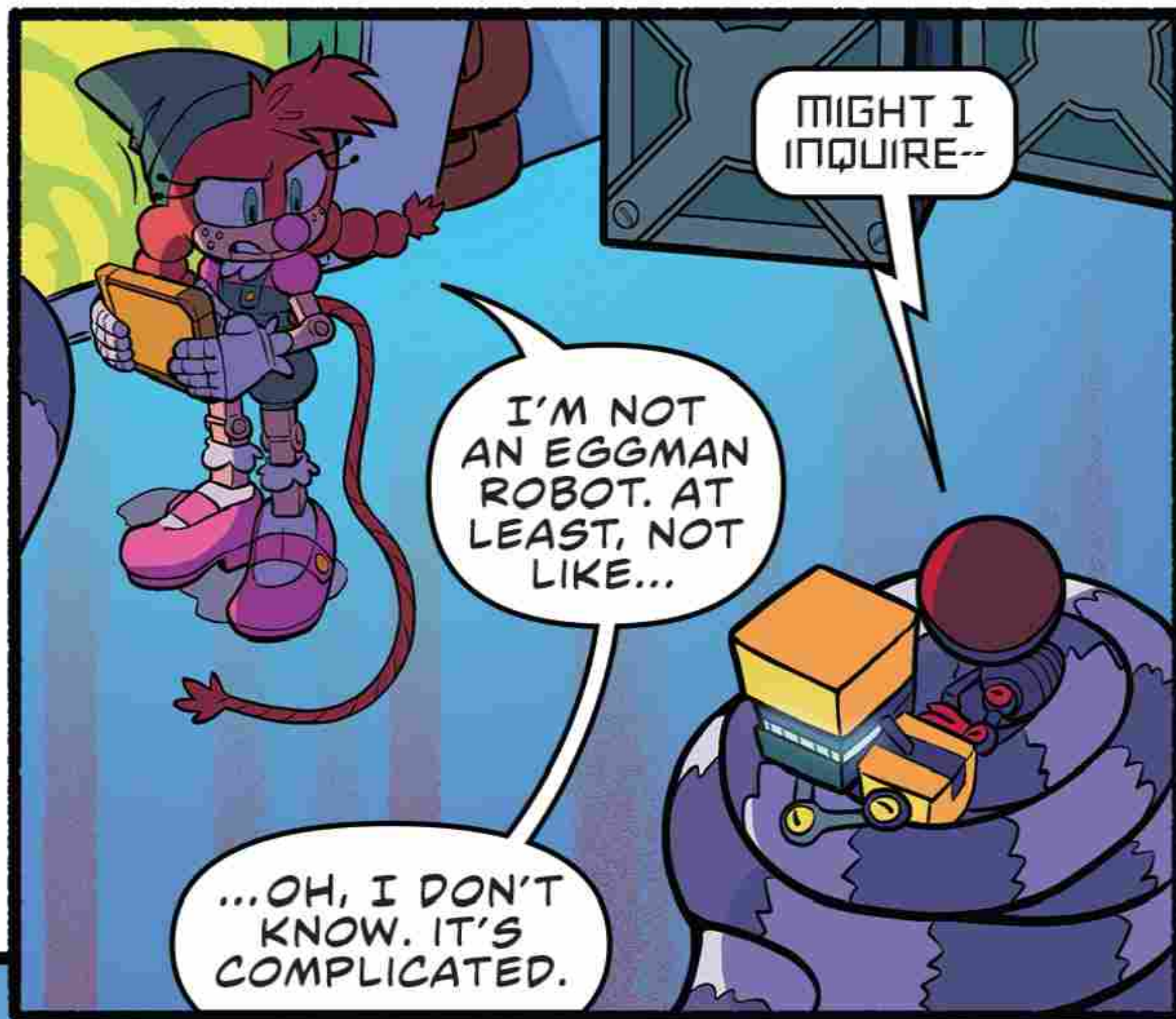
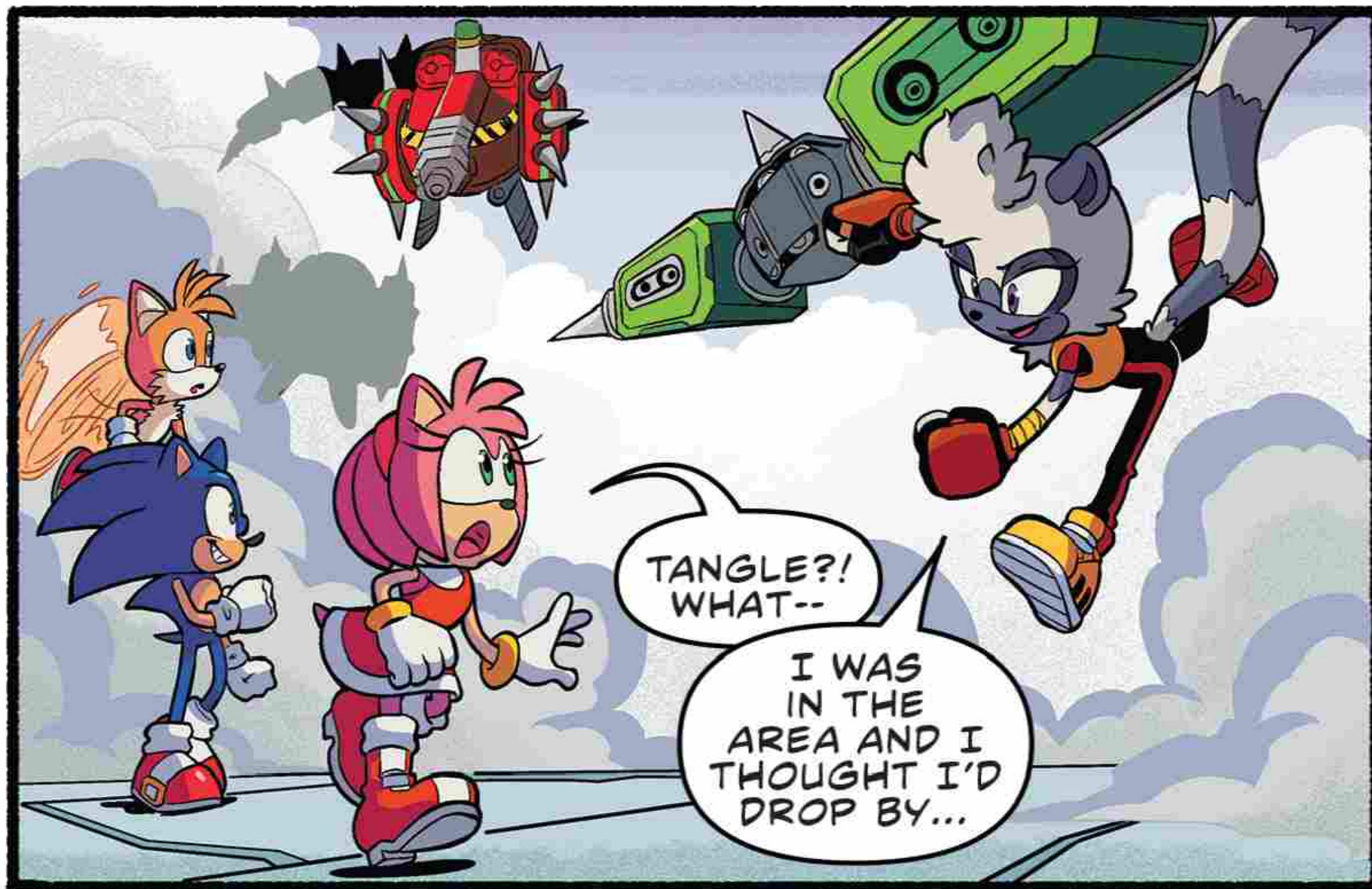
HAVING
FUN YET?
I KNOW
I AM!











NOTHING SPECIAL. COOK, CLEAN, MAKE COFFEE...

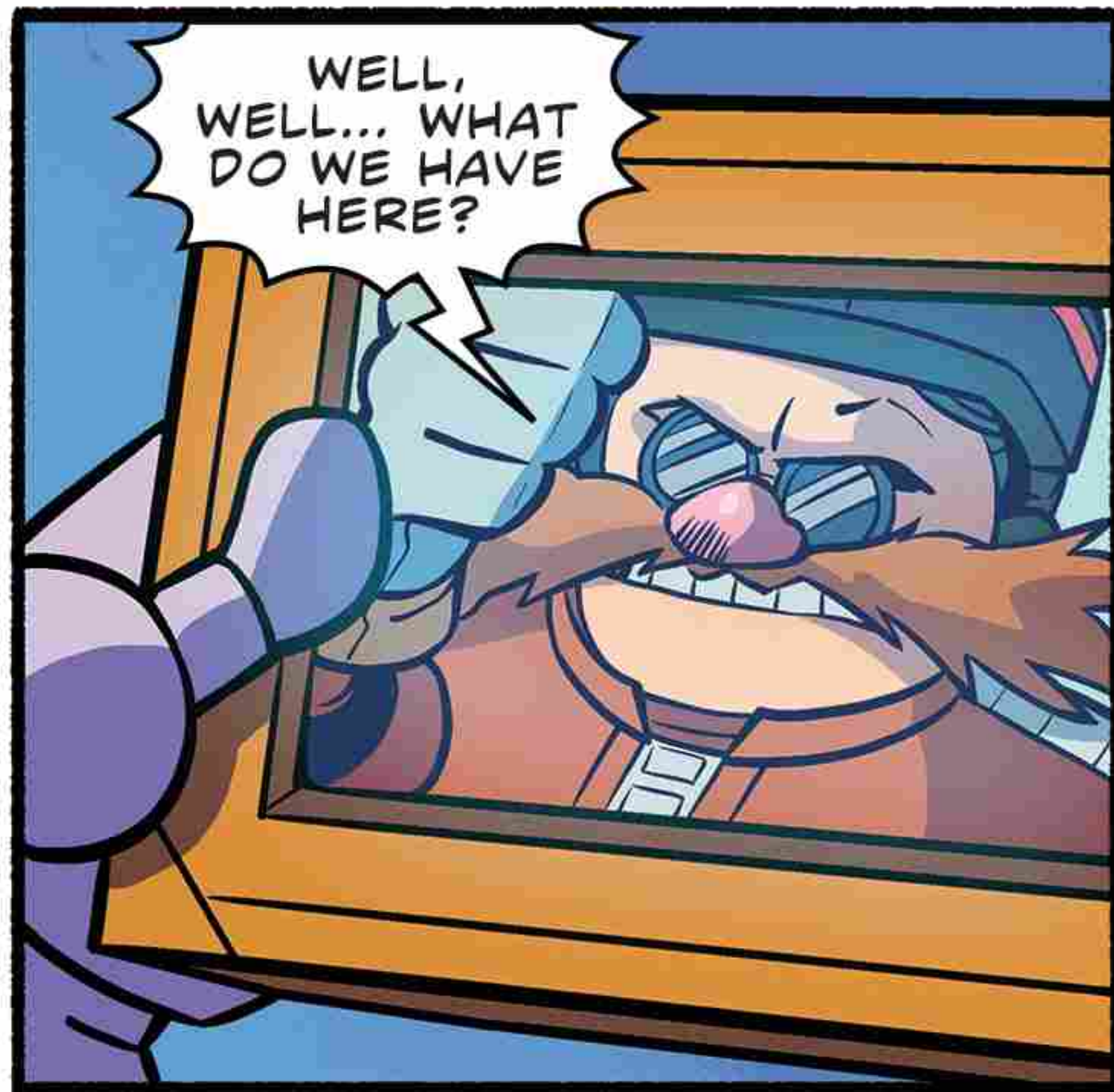
HE'S VERY PARTICULAR ABOUT THAT! NICE AND STRONG, NO MILK--

--AND LOTS AND LOTS OF SUGAR.





THESE
LITTLE PESTS
ARE MAKING
MESS OF--
--WAIT,
WHAT WAS
THAT VOICE?
ENGAGING
AUTOPILOT...



WELL,
WELL... WHAT
DO WE HAVE
HERE?



UNCONVENTIONAL
MATERIAL, BUT I'D
RECOGNIZE THAT
JOINT DESIGN
ANYWHERE...

...THERE'S ONLY ONE
PERSON ON THIS
PLANET WHO BUILDS
MACHINES LIKE
THAT. *ME.*



YES... YOU'RE
THE LITTLE HELPER
I PUT TOGETHER
WHILE I WAS
DELUSIONAL, THINKING
I WAS SOME SORT
OF SMALL-TOWN
INVENTOR.*

EVEN
IN THAT
IMPAIRED STATE,
I WAS STILL
INNOVATING!

REMIND
ME, WHAT DID
"MR. TINKER"
CALL YOU?

B-BELLE.
BELLE THE
TINKERER.



AHH,
HOW...
SWEET.

*ISSUES 5-6--EDS.



DON'T GO ANYWHERE. I HAVE QUESTIONS FOR YOU. BUT FIRST, I HAVE A HEDGEHOG I NEED TO CRUSH--

WAIT! YOU CAN'T--SORRY, I MEAN, YOU WOULDN'T...



YOU WOULDN'T DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS, NOT WITHOUT A REASON.

PLEASE, TELL ME THAT THIS ISN'T WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.

I-I MEAN, HE WOULDN'T...



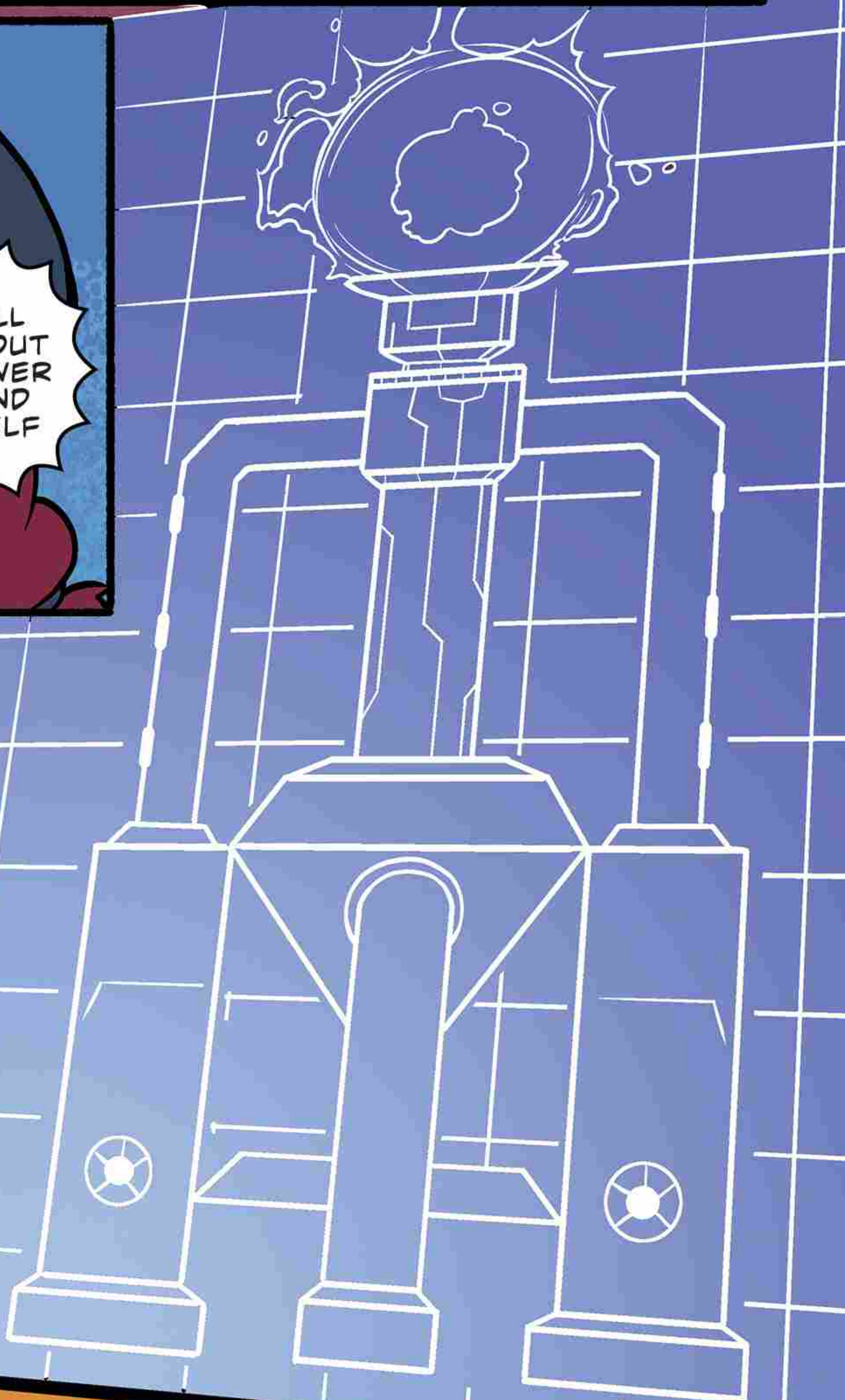
HMM. YOU CARED FOR MY ALTER-EGO. VERY WELL, I'LL GIVE YOU A REASON.

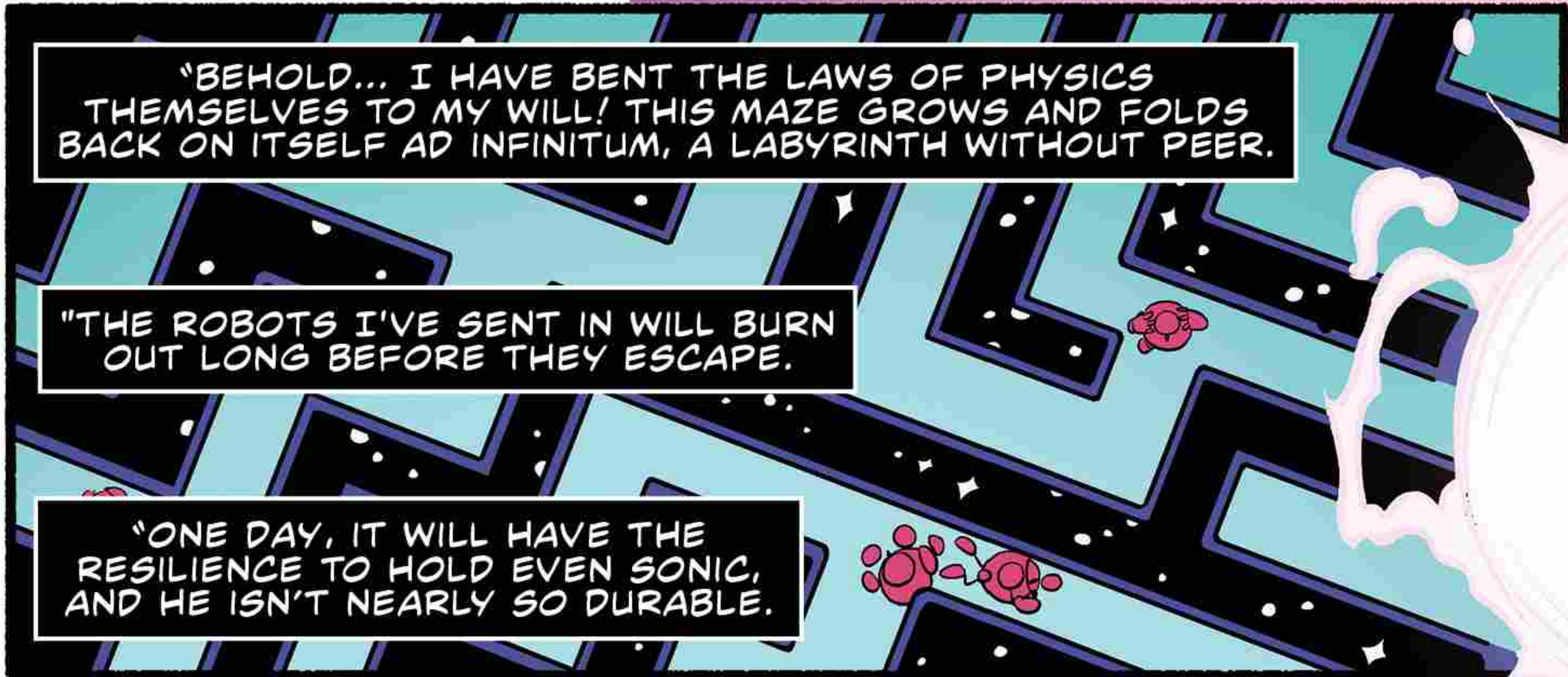


LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THE TOWER YOU FIND YOURSELF IN.

"FOR A MAN OF MY INTELLECTUAL CALIBER, THE RESTRAINTS OF REALITY CAN, AT TIMES, BECOME STIFLING... MERELY TINKERING WITHIN THE LIMITS OF OUR BANAL WORLD NO LONGER SATISFIES.

"THAT'S WHERE THIS PLACE COMES IN."





"BEHOLD... I HAVE BENT THE LAWS OF PHYSICS THEMSELVES TO MY WILL! THIS MAZE GROWS AND FOLDS BACK ON ITSELF AD INFINITUM, A LABYRINTH WITHOUT PEER.

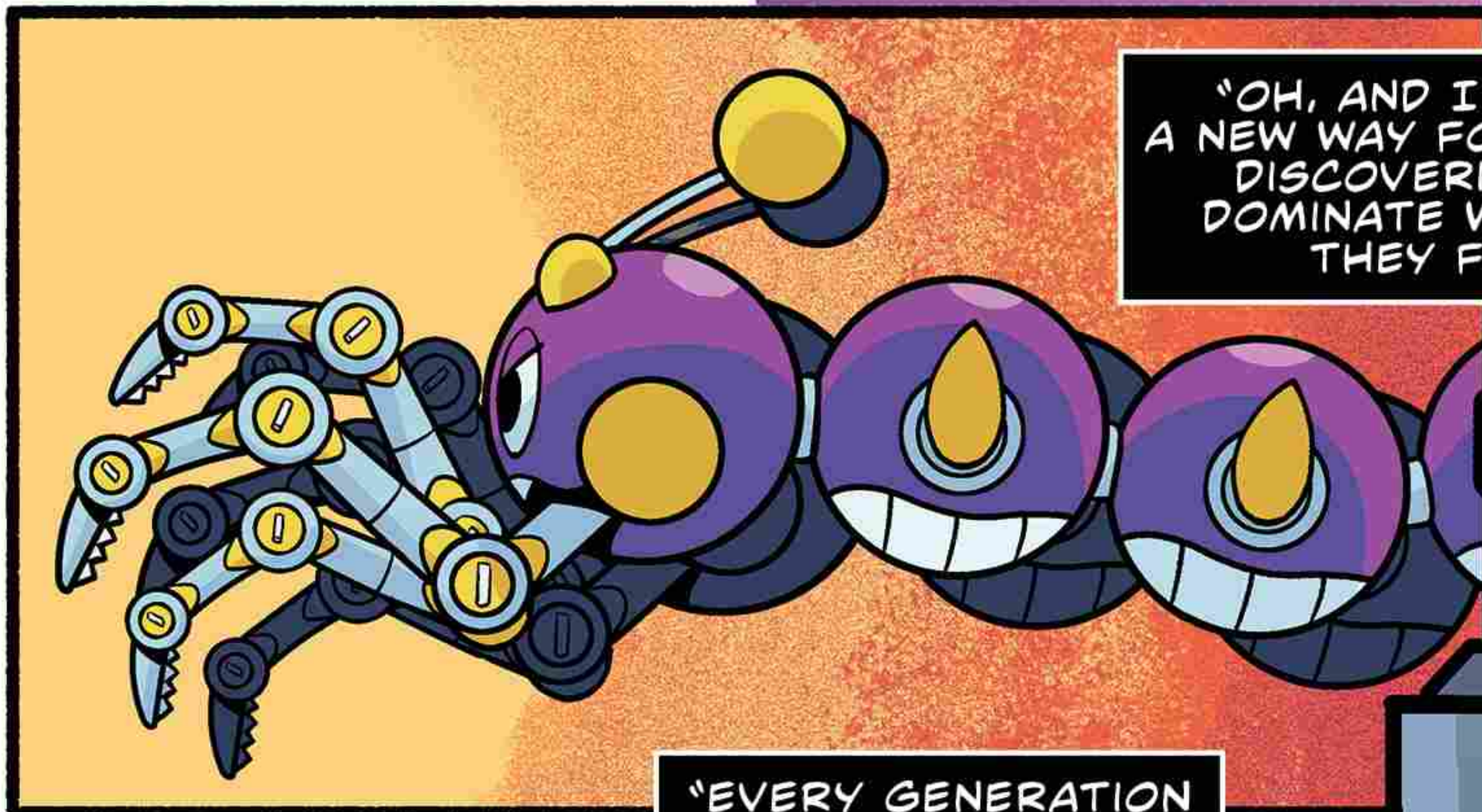
"THE ROBOTS I'VE SENT IN WILL BURN OUT LONG BEFORE THEY ESCAPE.

"ONE DAY, IT WILL HAVE THE RESILIENCE TO HOLD EVEN SONIC, AND HE ISN'T NEARLY SO DURABLE.



"NEXT, A MODEL OF SORTS. A PERFECT SIMULATION OF A TRAGICALLY IMPERFECT WORLD, NOT YET UNDER MY CONTROL.

"I CAN TEST HOW QUICKLY MY BADNIK HORDES CAN OVERTAKE A TOWN, TO 'RECRUIT' A FRESH CROP OF UNSUSPECTING TEST SUBJECTS.



"OH, AND I ESPECIALLY LIKE THIS-- A NEW WAY FOR MY BADNIKS TO EVOLVE, DISCOVERING NEW WAYS TO BEST DOMINATE WHATEVER ENVIRONMENT THEY FIND THEMSELVES IN!

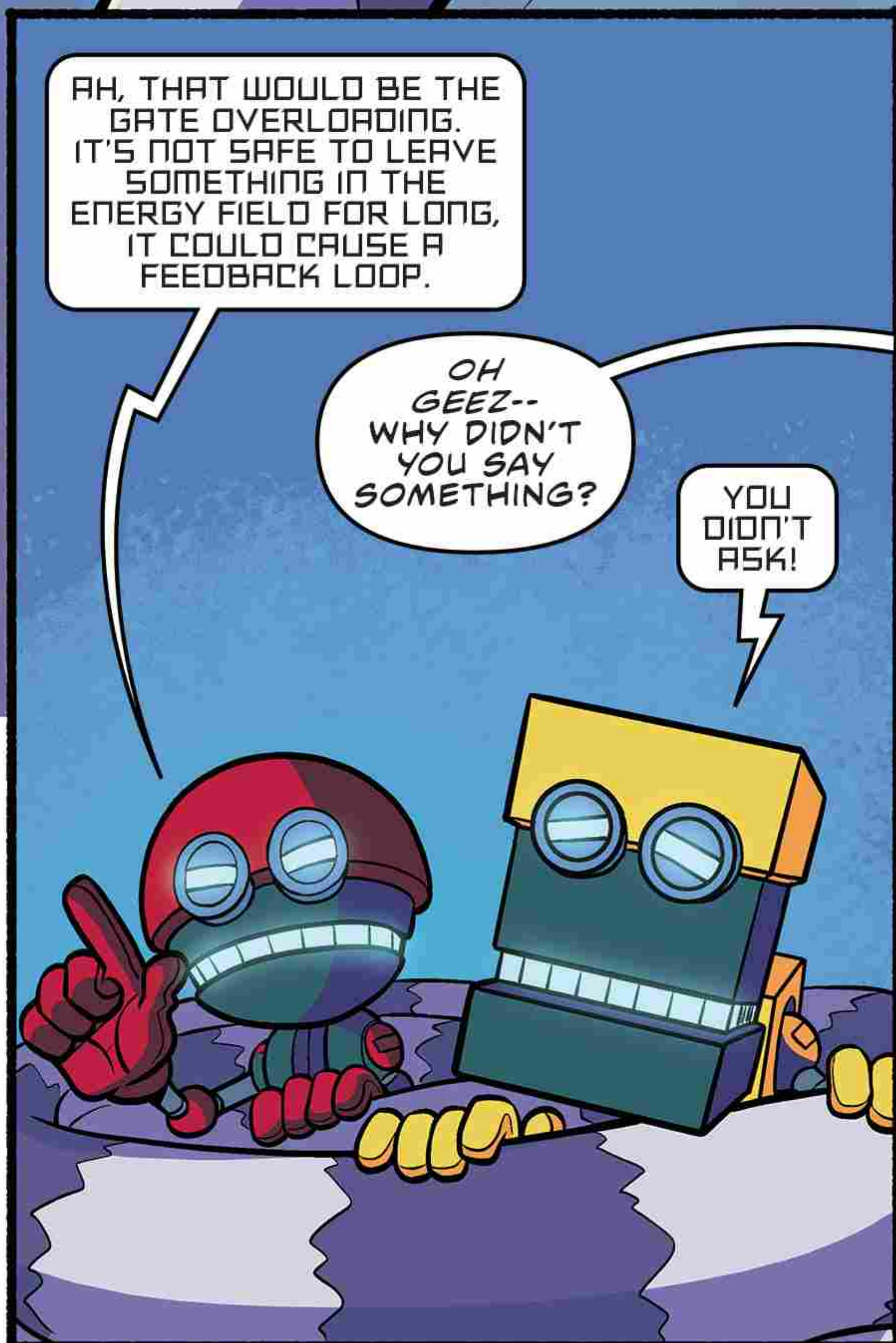
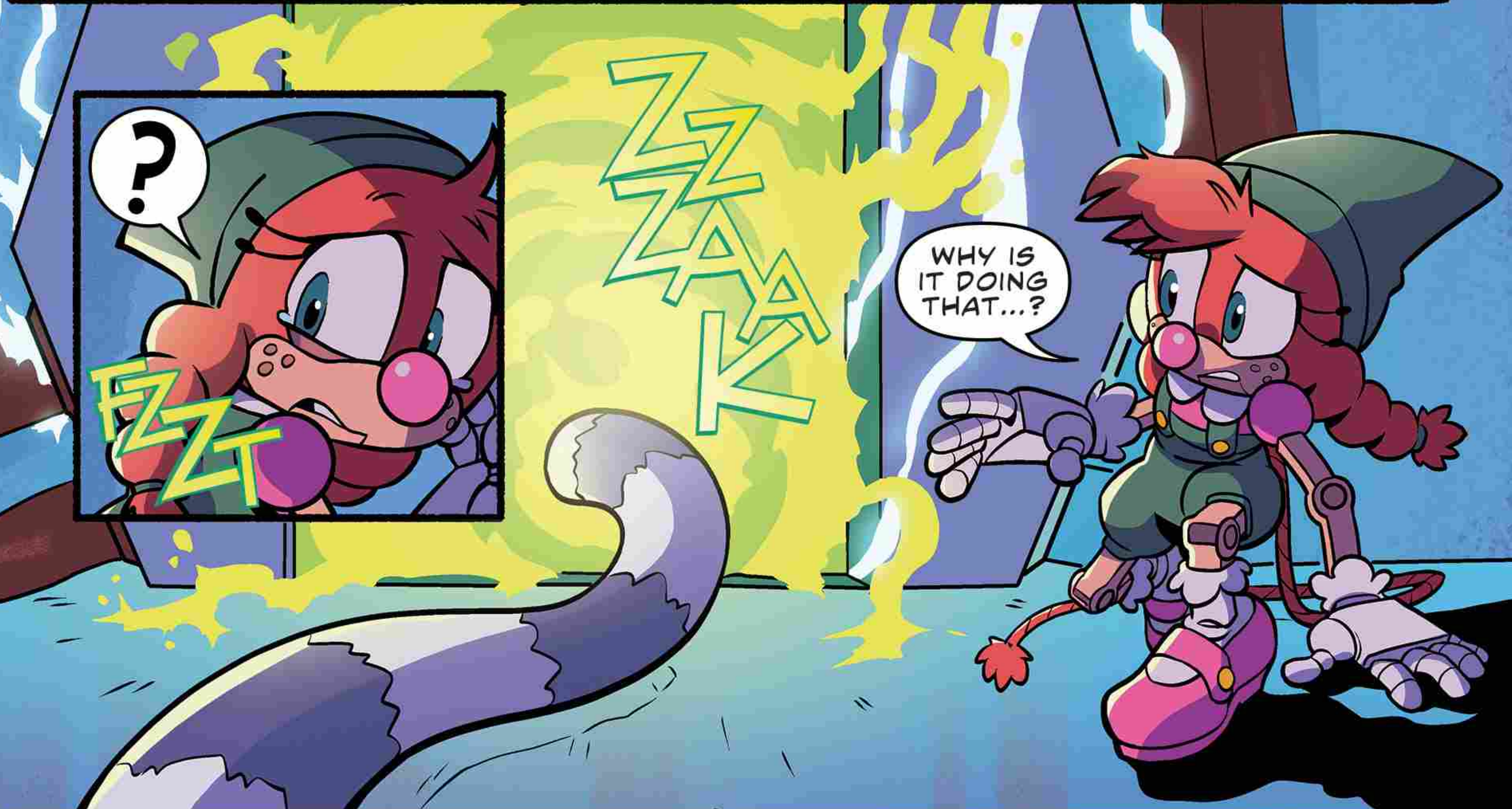
"EVERY GENERATION WILL REVEAL NEW AND TERRIFYING ADAPTATIONS."



THERE'S MORE, BUT THE FINER POINTS OF MY BRILLIANCE WOULD NO DOUBT BE LOST ON YOU.

SO TELL ME, WHAT MAKES YOUR PRECIOUS TOYMAKER WORTHY OF SUCH ADMIRATION, IN THE FACE OF MY UNRESTRAINED GENIUS?

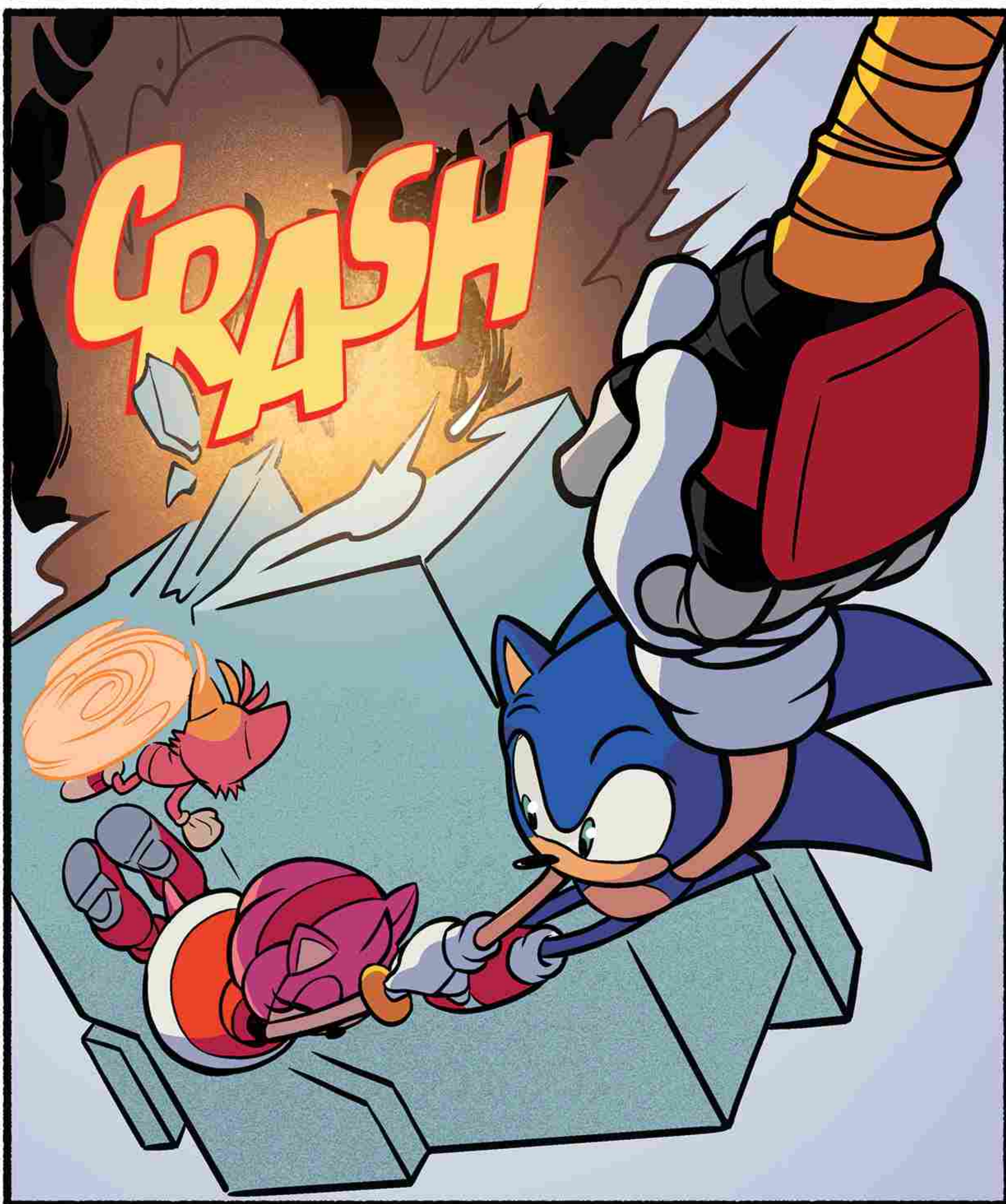


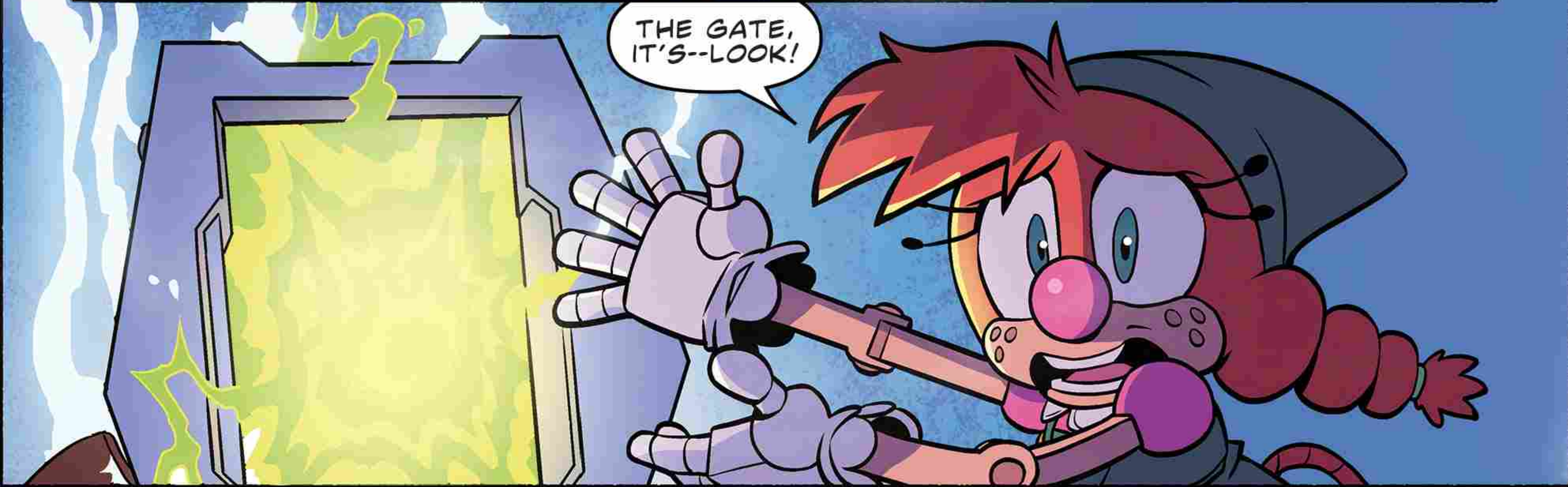
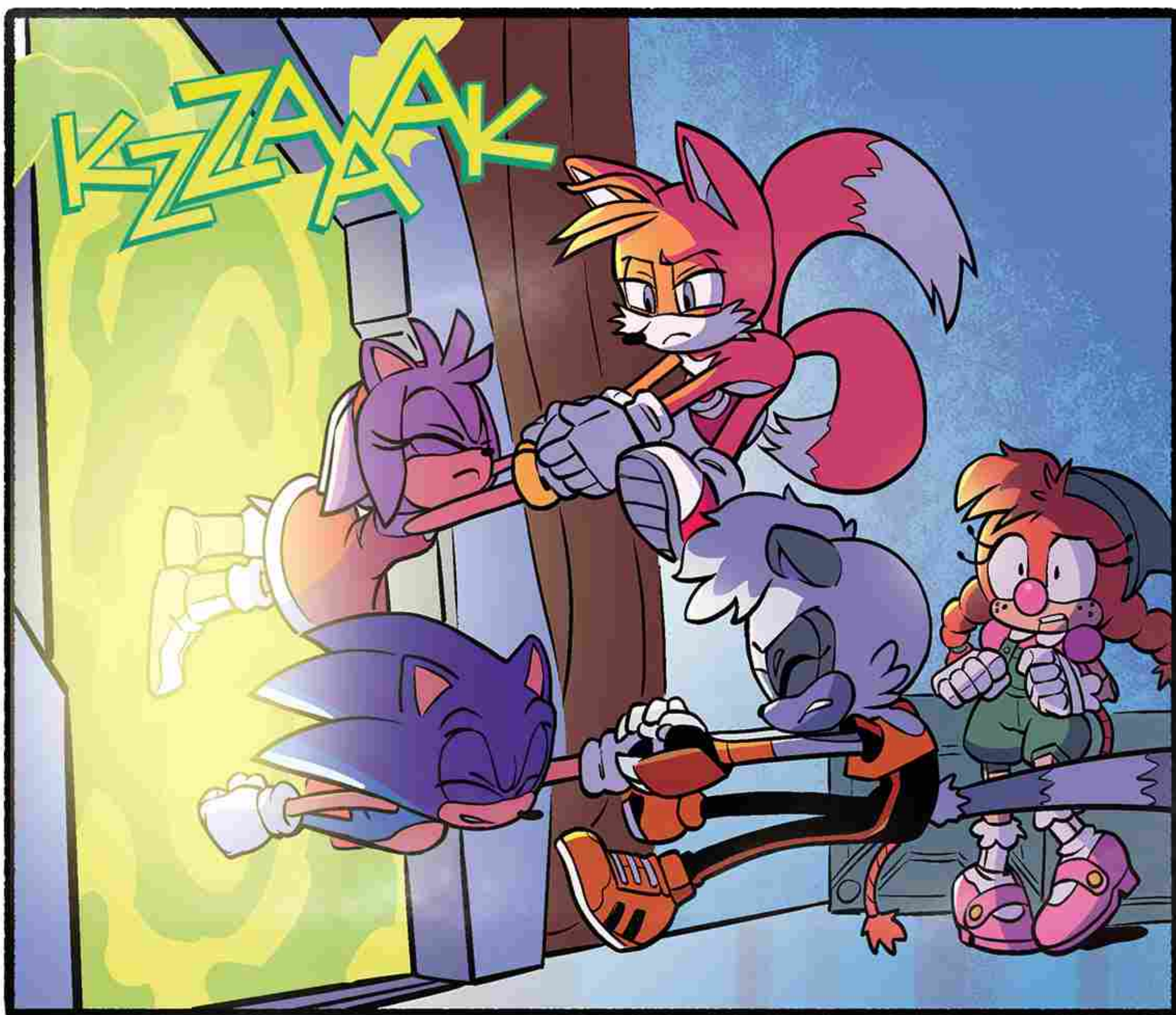


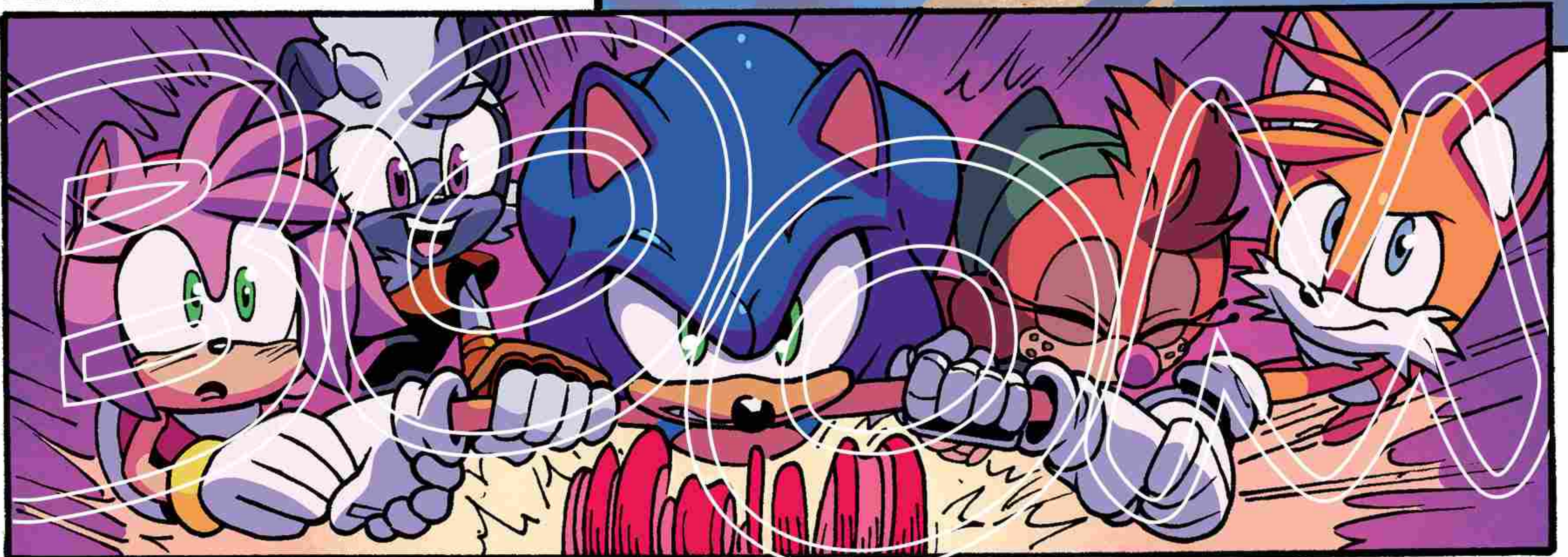
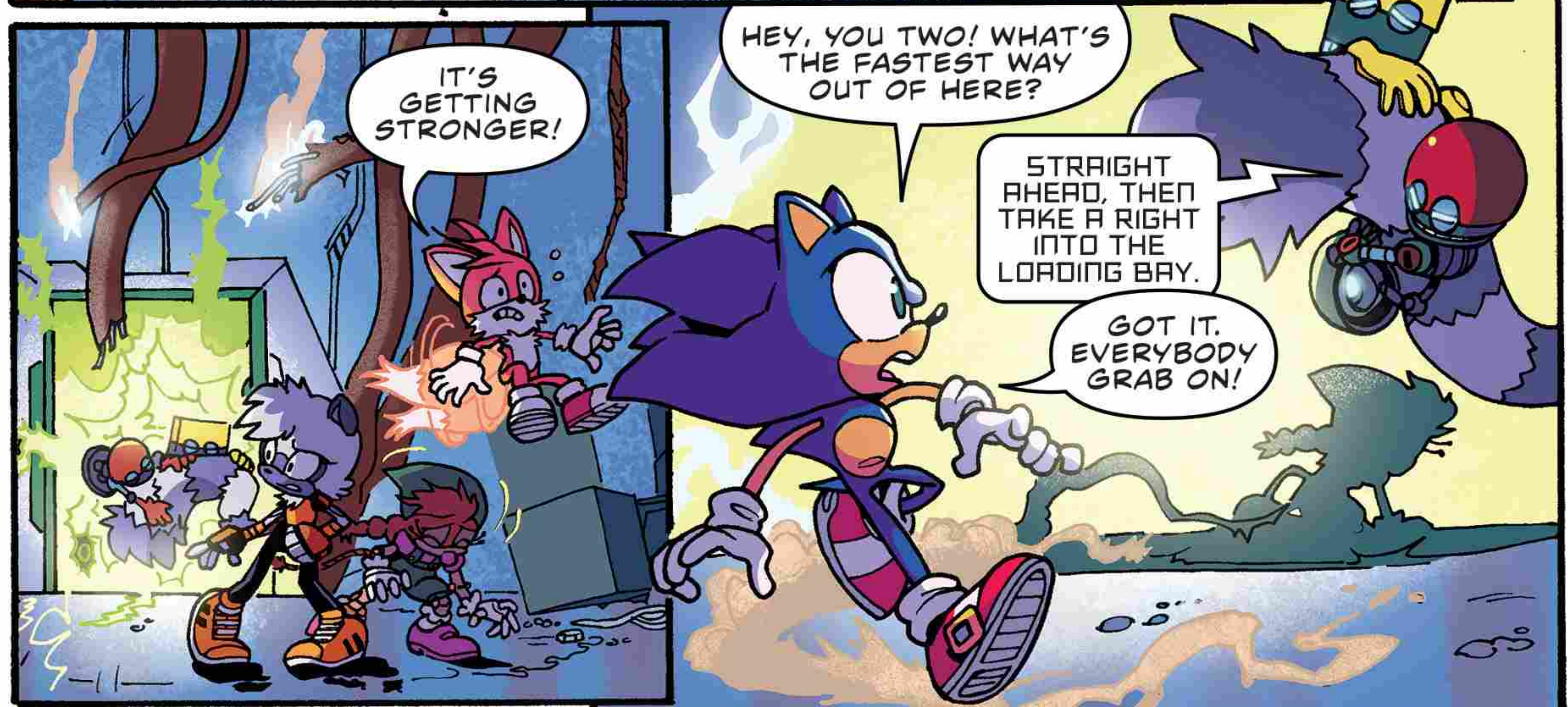
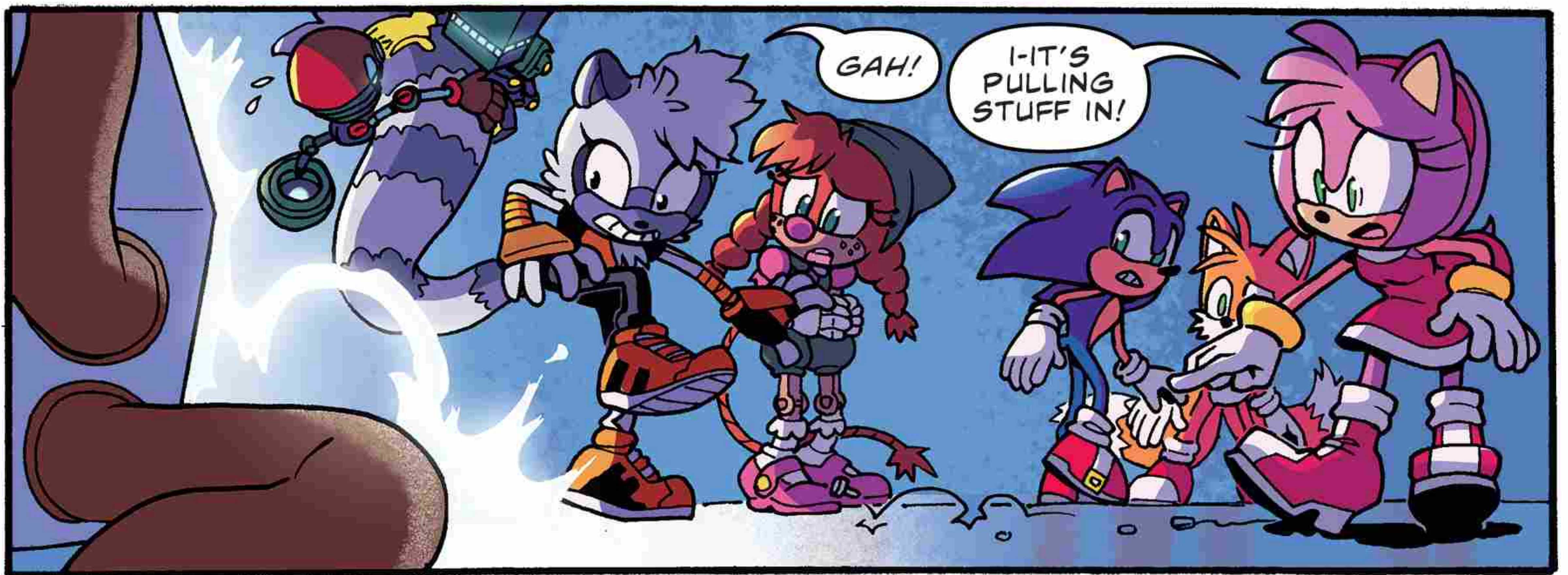


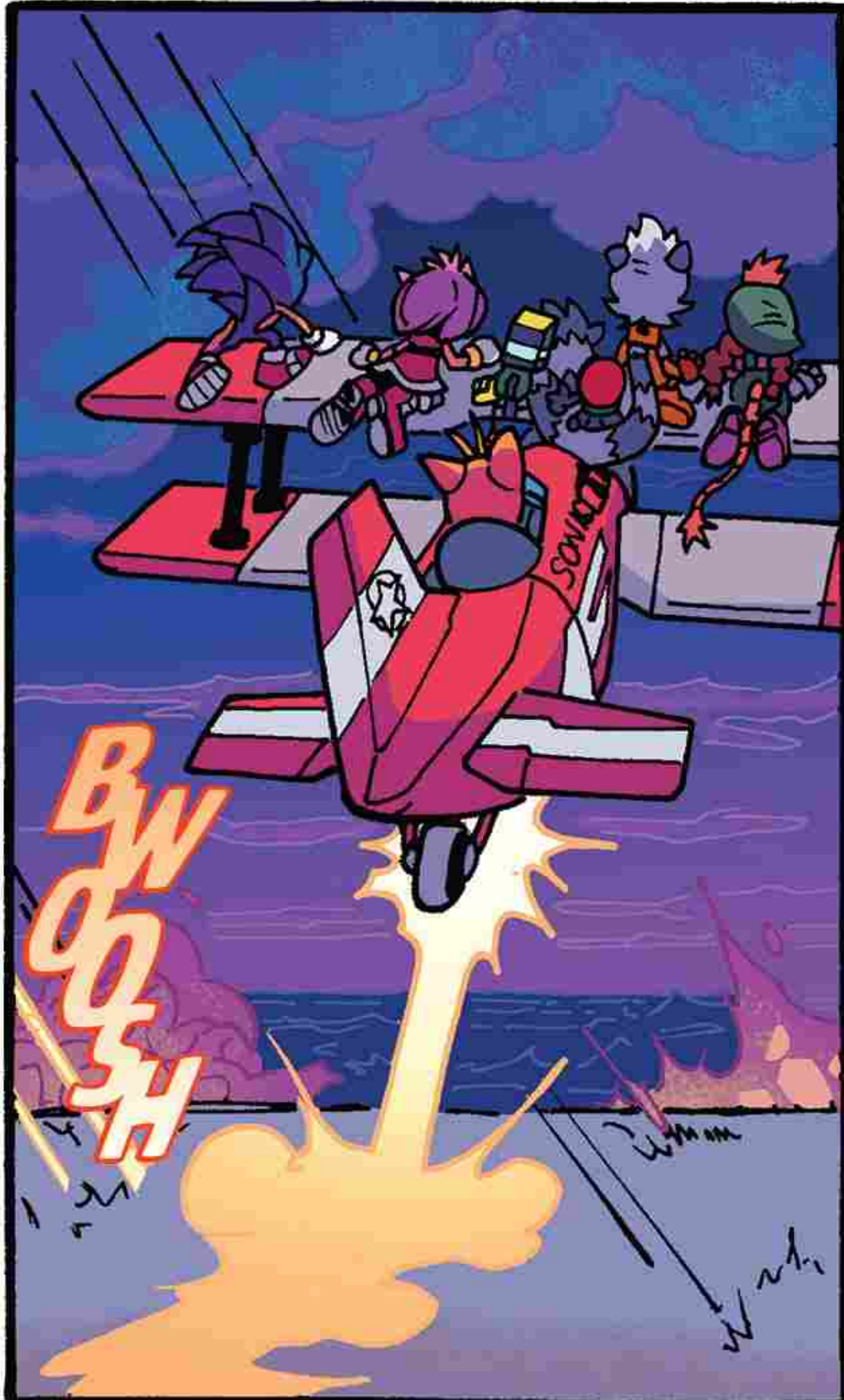
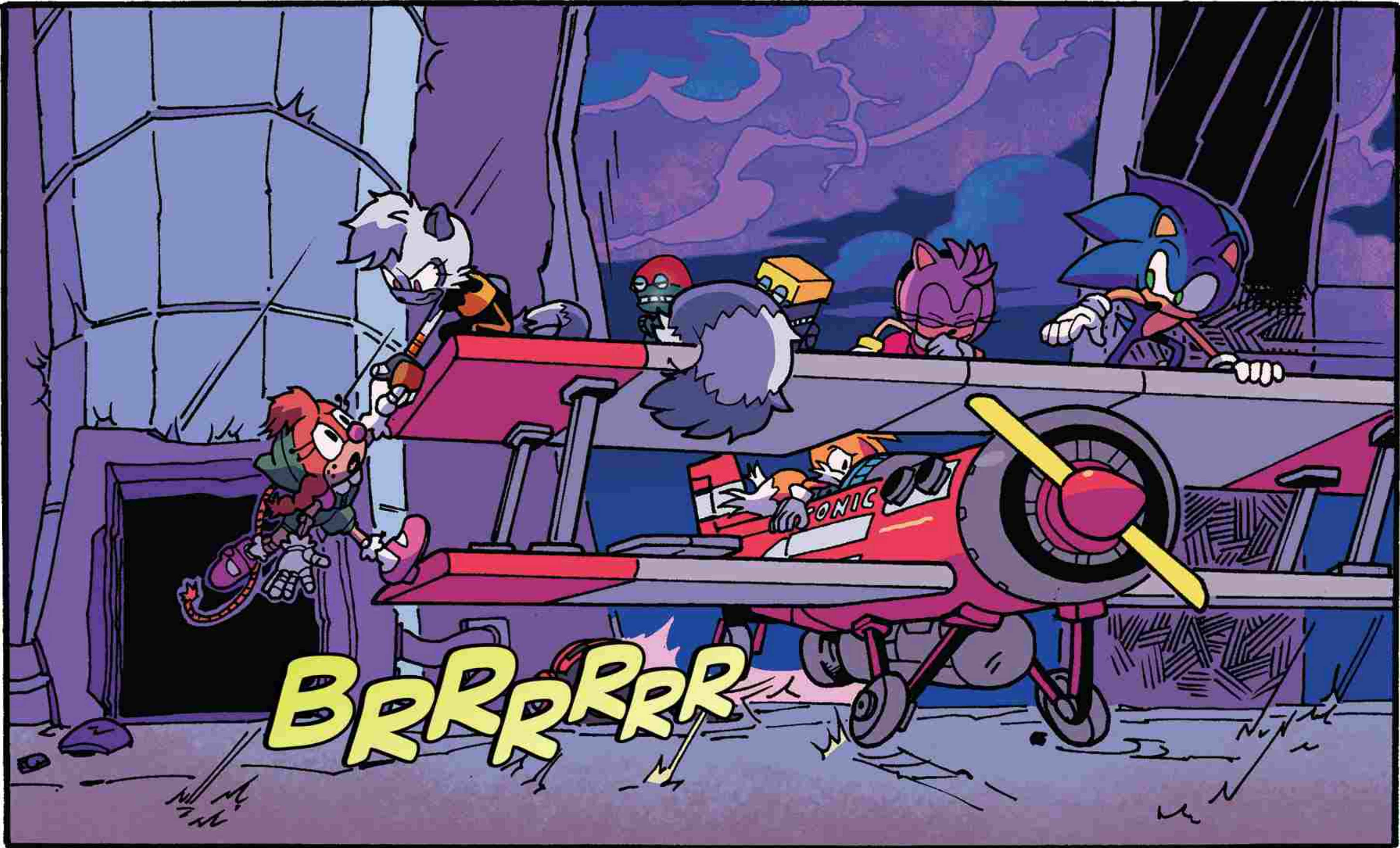
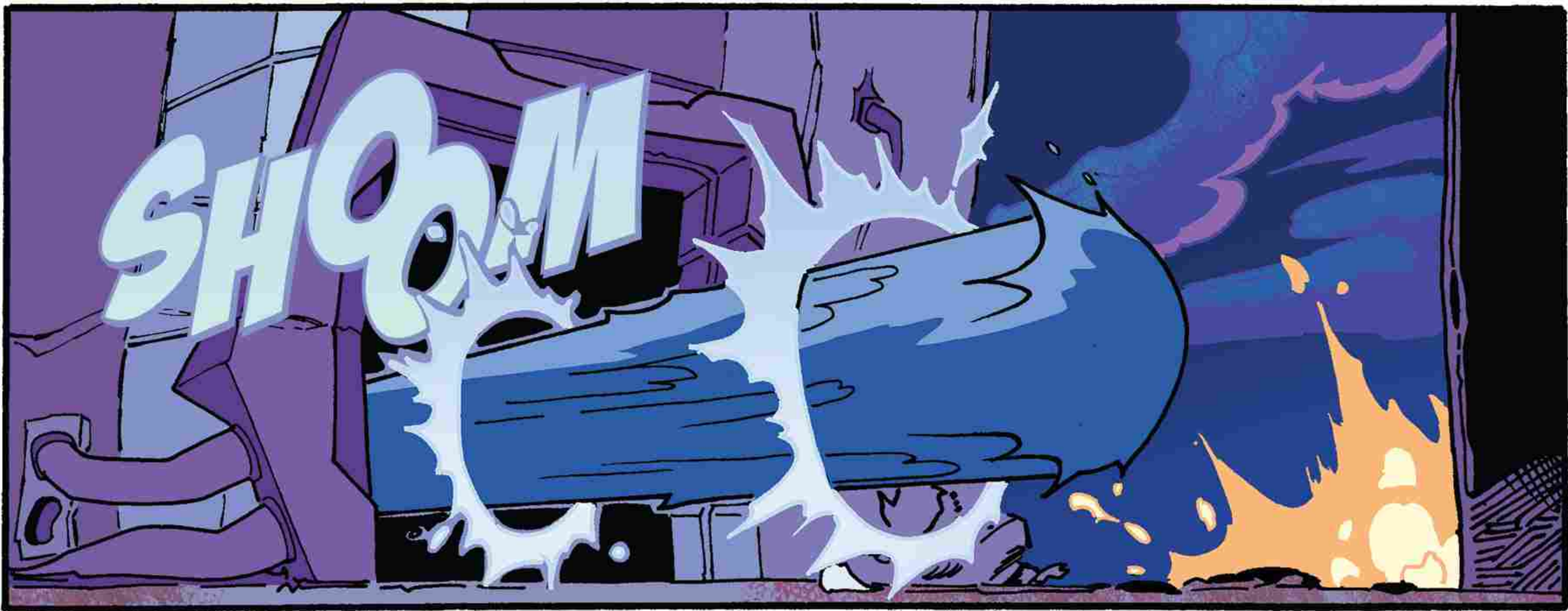


... TRY
AND DODGE
THIS!









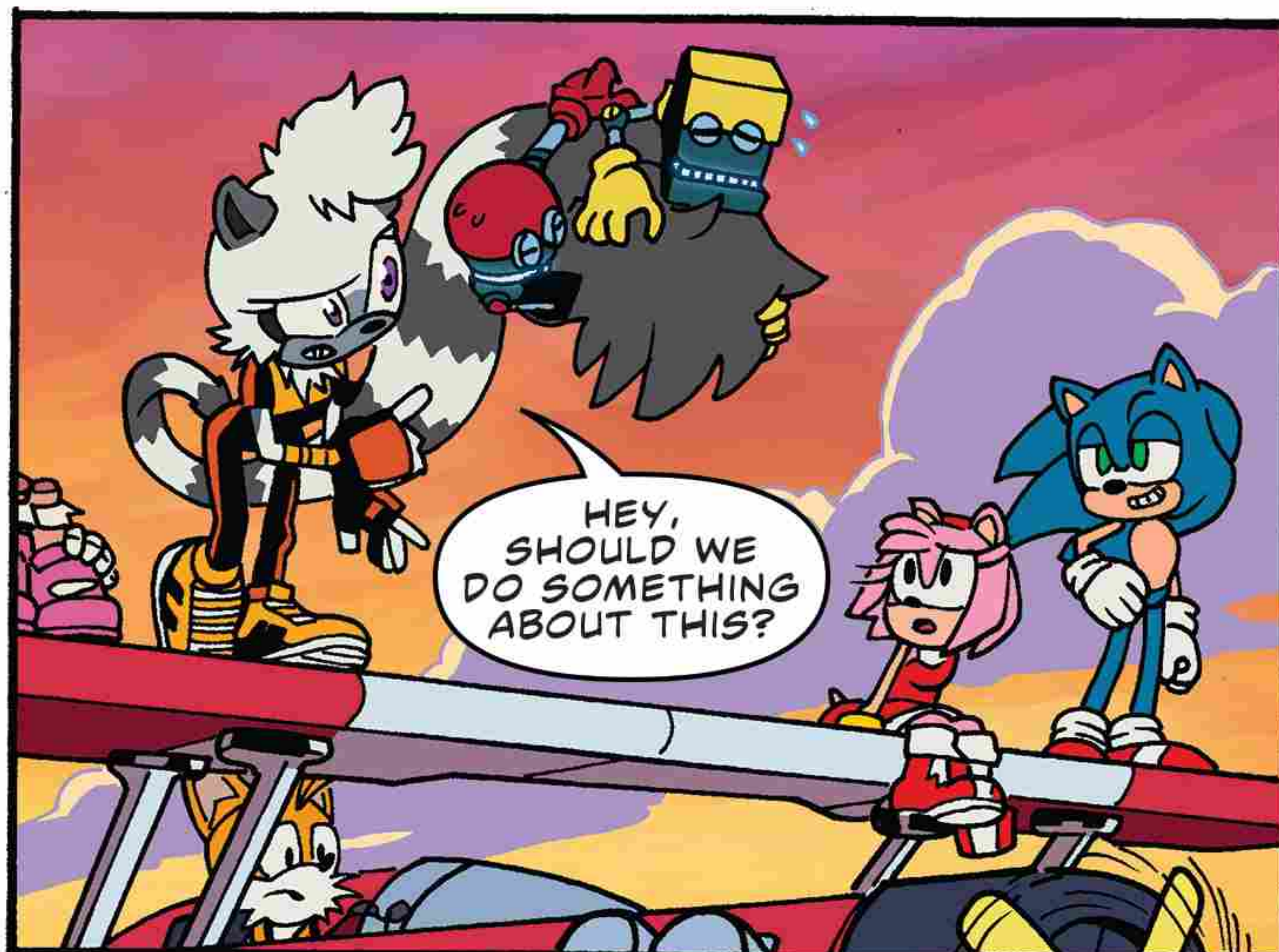


GAH!
UGH...





CURIOUS... I'M NOT PICKING UP ANY SIGN OF THE TOWER. IT'S COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED!



HEY, SHOULD WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS?



THE RESTORATION'S NOT ABOUT TO START TAKING PRISONERS...

LET THEM GO.



THEY'RE NOT THE ONE WHO DID THIS.



SHE'S RIGHT... WHATEVER THEY DO NOW, IT'S NOT OUR CALL.

SO WHAT, WE JUST TOSS 'EM OFF THE PLANE?

YES. THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR CUBOT AND I TO TAKE A SMALL SABBATICAL.

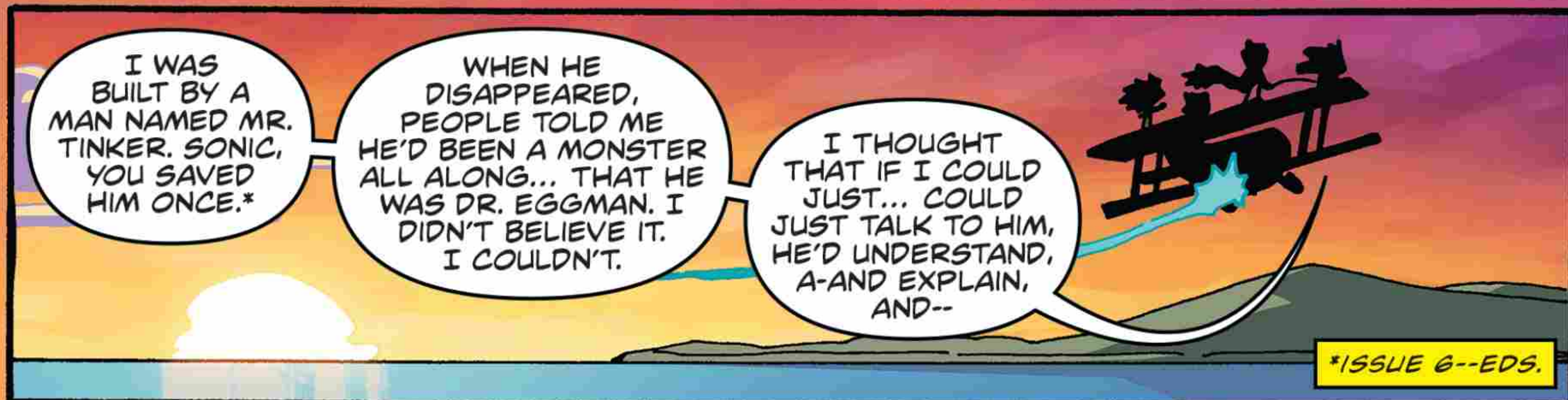
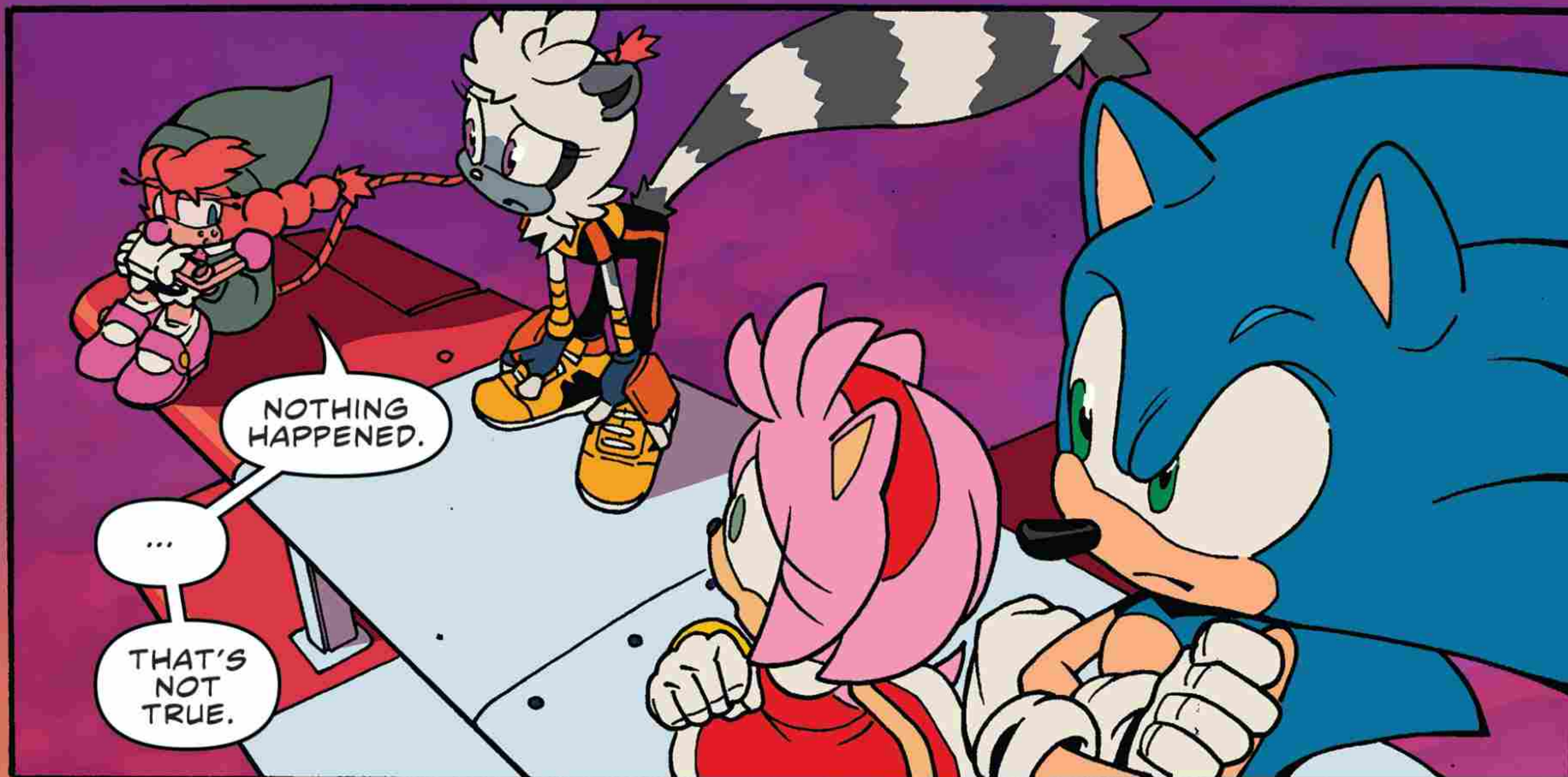
YEAH, AND A VACATION! WE'RE POOPED!



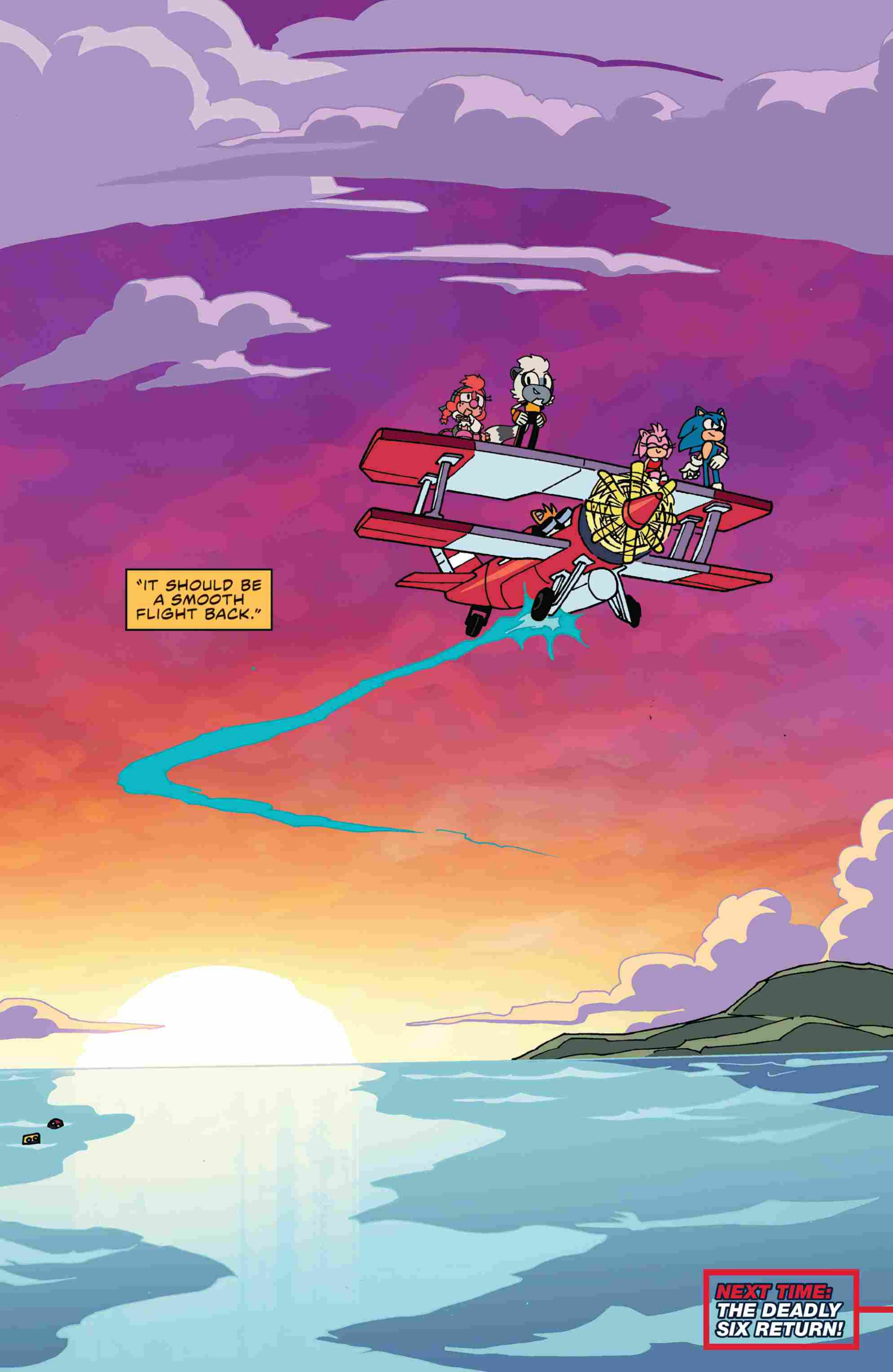
I CAN DIG IT. YOU SHOULD TRY AND GET METAL TO PLAY HOOKY TOO NEXT TIME!

POP

REST AND RELAXATION, HERE WE COME!

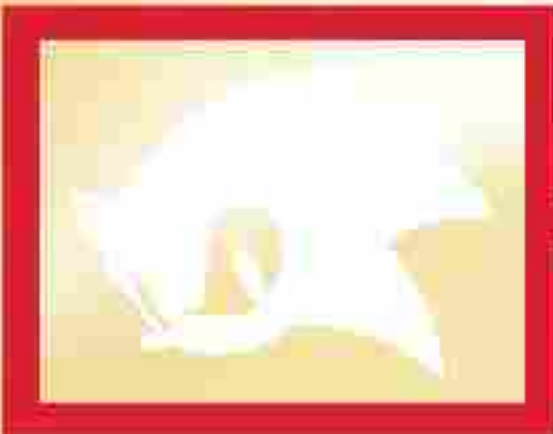






"IT SHOULD BE
A SMOOTH
FLIGHT BACK."

**NEXT TIME:
THE DEADLY
SIX RETURN!**

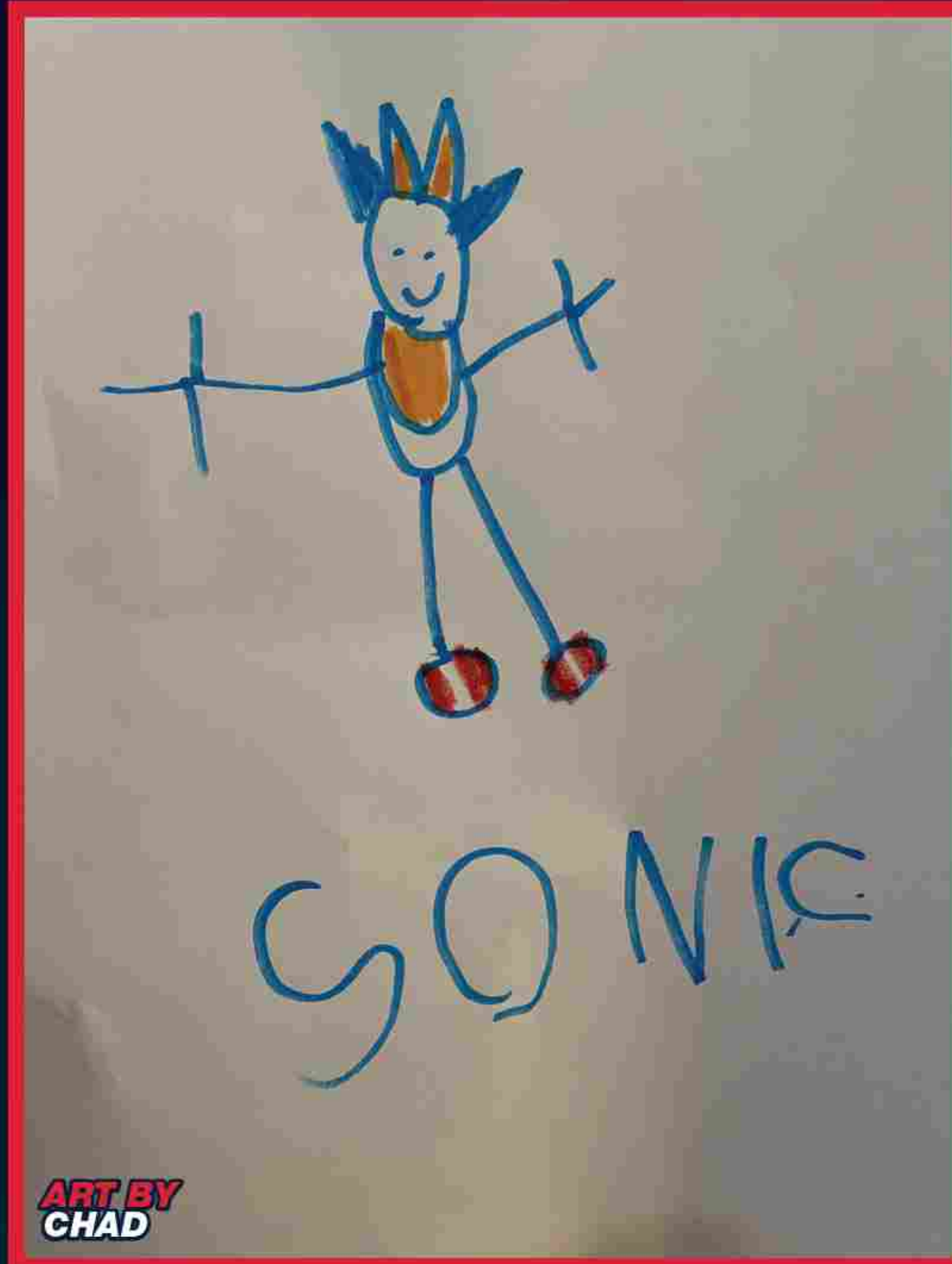


NEXT MONTH



SONIC

LETTERS SQUAD



Hi, Sonic Squad! Well, now we know the truth about Belle... and I just want to give her a big hug! Thank you for joining Evan Stanley, Adam Bryce Thomas, Maria Keane, John Wycough, Leonardo Ito, Heather Breckel, and Shawn Lee for this emotional conclusion to "Test Run"! Now, let's check out your art and letters!

Hello Sonic Comic Squad

I just got done rereading the series and just, WOW! It's just as good the second time around. I like the way old characters are given so much love. I like the tense moments the story forces the characters into, and I'll never forget that metal virus saga. I also just love the new characters. Starline is the swaggiest person alive, and nobody better touch my girl Whisper. I really like Belle too, and I can't wait to see where the story takes her. I just wanna say thanks for making such an awesome comic series. Everything from the story to the art is just amazing. You're doing a great job!

Astra



Hello, Astra,

Your letter made me laugh! Starline is indeed the swaggiest person (platypus?) alive. It's always so nice to hear that people love the new IDW characters because the whole team works hard to make them loveable! I know what you mean—I want to protect Whisper and Belle so much! Thank you so much for your continued support!

Hi IDW,

My name is Ben and I am 6 years old. My dad and I just read the Metal Virus story. We both really loved it! My favorite part was when the team kicked the Deadly Six's butts to get the Chaos Emeralds. I drew a picture of Tails because he is my favorite character. I even have a Tails stuffed animal. I can't wait to start reading the next story!

Thanks,
Ben





Hi, Ben,

I'm so glad to hear that you and your dad enjoyed the Metal Virus saga! If you like Sonic and friends fighting the Deadly Six... I think you'll love reading the next few issues with your dad. Have you considered doing funny voices for each character? Zomom probably has a really goofy and deep voice. Thank you so much for your letter and art, Tails is so cute, I love his smile!

Hi Sonic Team!

My name is Timothy. I'm 9 years old and a HUGE fan of Sonic the Hedgehog! I love all of the Sonic comics, books and games! The first Sonic game I ever played was Mario & Sonic at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. It was so exciting and fun! Then I started to play more Sonic games and watch Sonic shows all the time. I began asking my parents for different Sonic things like toys and comic books. My first Sonic plush toy was actually Knuckles! My favorite Sonic comic so far is #33, Cover B. I love that edition because it has Rouge and Cheese in it! I also LOVE making Sonic drawings and writing my own Sonic stories and books! I've written seven Sonic comics and books so far! I love doing role play and acting out the stories with my Sonic plush characters. Lastly, my favorite Sonic games are: Sonic Unleashed, Sonic Generations, Sonic Colors, Sonic Free Riders, Team Sonic Racing, Sonic Mania and Sonic Forces and my favorite Sonic shows are Sonic X and Sonic Boom. I can't wait to read all of the Sonic comics.

A huge fan,
Timothy

Hi, Timothy,

Wow, what a big collection! I'm so jealous of all of your Sonic stuffed animals. It looks

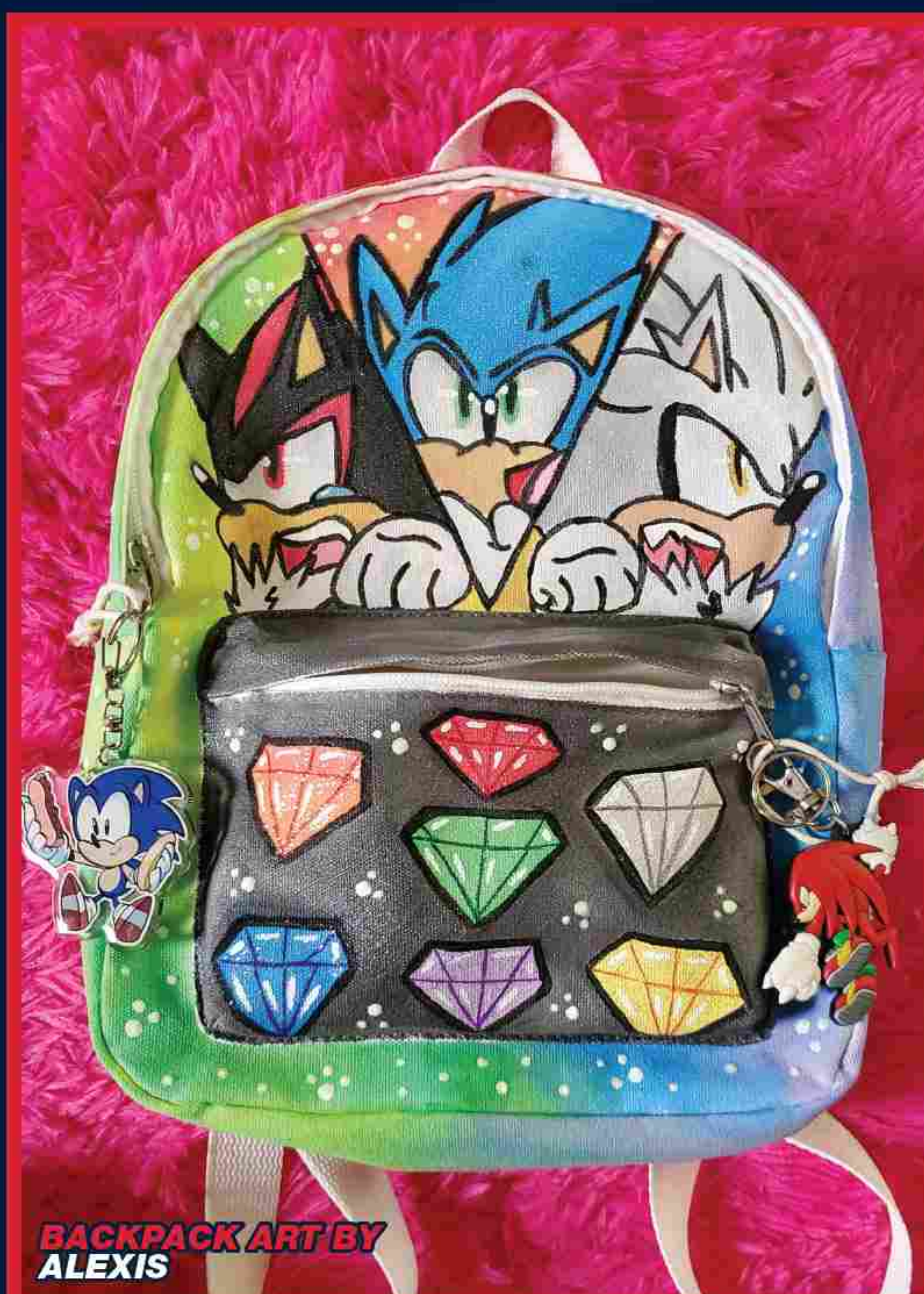


like you have a lot of really cool covers, too. It's way past cool that you've been inspired to write and draw your own Sonic comics. A lot of Sonic writers and artists that work on the book now started out just like you-they played every Sonic game, read every comic, collected toys-and now they get paid to draw the little blue hedgehog all day! You must have a really big imagination to come up with so many stories and role plays, I would love to hear about all of your stories one day. Thank you for your wonderful art and letter, I hope we can keep making comics you enjoy!

Thanks for joining us, Squad. Don't forget to send your art and letters to:

letters@idwpublishing.com

and make sure to mark them: "OKAY TO PRINT!" And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Next month, grab your safari hats and binoculars because it's time for "Zeti Hunt"!





ART TRACY YARDLEY COLORS LEONARDO ITO



ART DAN SCHOENING **COLORS LUIS ANTONIO DELGADO**

Hedgehog Destruction - **LIVE**



~~inf1nyxW0rlds~~
pledged x100 Eggbits!
weak



EggPawnEF-XB2006: Wow! So good! Thank you Dr. Eggman!
TheRealTrueActualSonic:
SSSSSSScratchMan: GET WRECKED BWAHAHAHA
jumpinSpirallemur04: BAD STREAM >:(/////////
GearsAndStarters: Um, does anyone know a Mr. Tinker?
StarsAndLines: Is this a joke? Doctor, I can't believe your using this setup. I expected better of you, but instead you'd rather devote resources into making a juvenile mindless streaming device to appease whom? Yourself? Please. Unsubscribed.
StarsAndLines: *you're
ModOrbot: Spamming and backseating is not allowed in the chat.
[Comment removed]
Supergrounder93:
EggPawnMB-XB1991: Wow! So good! Thank you Dr. Eggman!

SUBSCRIBE TO THE
EGGMAN EMPIRE

ART NATHALIE FOURDRAINE